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# guardtimes

Serving the New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, New York Guard and Families

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PG 10 > **City Civil Support Team Given a Go**

PG 14 > **Museum Opening Day A Guard Event**

PG 18 > **206th MP's Guidon is Back**

PG 29 > **CCMRF Aviation Force Trained**

PG 39 > **Shuttle Atlantis 25 Year Support**

# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

## Goal-Oriented Priorities For Future Challenges

It's been a very busy summer for the New York National Guard.

Our Army Guard forces have been training hard at Fort Drum and preparing for upcoming deployments and domestic response missions, while beginning the process of standing up a Homeland Response Force. Our Air Guard has been continually meeting mission requirements around the world from running Reaper Combat Air Patrols in Afghanistan to shipping critical supplies around the world.

To ensure we remain capable and ready to handle tough training and challenging missions, I've provided guidance that will keep leaders focused on organizational priorities. Think in terms of lines of operation in a campaign plan. As resources are planned and committed, consider how each activity relates back to these lines of operation.

Our first priority is Soldier and Airman-Readiness.

Readiness starts with recruiting and retaining a quality force. Our Soldiers and Airmen are our most precious resource. Each Service Member needs to be fully qualified in their Military Occupational Specialty or Air Force Specialty Code. Leaders have to ensure schools are available and training is well planned, resourced and executed. For their part, Soldiers and Airman have to be ready for this training.

Each Soldier and Airman has to work to maintain their physical fitness and meet standards for weight and physical training. In a Reserve Component force this means Soldiers and Airmen need to have the Self-Discipline to use their personal time to ensure they do meet these standards, while leaders at all levels have to provide encouragement and enforce the

standards.

We need resilient and skilled Soldiers and Airmen to be able to conduct operations overseas as well as being prepared for domestic support missions here at home.

Family Readiness is our next priority.

When an individual joins the National Guard they bring a family with them. Leaders need to engage and support family members by letting them know what to expect whether their Soldier or Airman is training at home station or deployed. Service Members should encourage their spouses, children, and parents to get involved with their Family Readiness group and use available resources.

Our professional family programs staff has continued to grow based on available services. Once connected to the network of providers, family members will themselves become better prepared to support their Service Member.

Equipment Readiness is the third line of operation.

Equipment Readiness is a vital priority to meeting our state and federal missions. We've come a very long way in fielding equipment such as modern weapons systems and the newest most capable vehicles.

Leaders need to ensure unit equipment is well-maintained, accounted for, and Soldiers and Airmen know how to use it. At the headquarters level, the New York National Guard staff will continue working to get the best possible equipment for our Soldiers and Airmen. Meanwhile, our Service Members must take care of the equipment. They must strive to maintain a level of familiarity and proficiency that permit limited pre-execution train-up.

Finally, Facility Readiness is a key to success.

We are working hard to move our Army National Guard Soldiers out of 19th Century buildings into 21st Century Readiness Centers. These facilities provide modern classroom space, computer access, and appropriate training areas. We will continue to advocate for new buildings and maintenance facilities. This will mean moving out of some buildings with a historic connection to our communities. These moves will however position our units to better support Service Members, family members and our communities.

Our five air bases and the Eastern Air Defense Sector will continue to modernize facili-



**Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy**

ties and construct new buildings when they are needed.

I ask Soldiers and Airmen to do their part to help take care of these modern facilities regardless of their age.

As we focus on these four lines of operation, and do them well, we keep in mind that we remain a nation at war. The National Guard is an integral part of the war fight; supporting overseas contingency operations.

Meanwhile, here at home, our communities continue to look to us for support in times of trouble and expect we'll be prepared to respond to an attack on our state or nation.

As we move forward, we do so ever mindful of an environment of growing financial constraints. The State of New York will continue to face tough financial times in the months and years ahead. The federal government is also looking for ways to cut spending and make best use of available resources.

I'm counting on Soldiers and Airmen, leaders and support staff at all levels to be ready and responsive. Our country, our state, and our neighbors are counting on us.

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Summer 2010 | Volume 3, Number 3

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## This Issue's Highlights:

### The Joint Force

- 10 24th CST-WMD Qualified to Engage
- 12 Guard Bureau Chief Visits Central NY

### Army National Guard

- 14 NYS Museum in Albany Dedicates Guard Display
- 16 Urbanized Cavalry Scouts
- 19 Engineers Got Crush
- 21 Striving For Culinary Excellence
- 22 Finance Det is Back
- 24 1108th EOD Partners With Kuwaiti National Guard
- 27 8 Soldiers, 8 Missions at Daytona Beach
- 28 Aviation Soldiers Ready, Willing and Able to Respond
- 31 Eight Division Headquarters in Lower Manhattan
- 32 Unique View of Guard Mentoring Afghan Army

### Air National Guard

- 34 106th On Hand for Last Flight of Atlantis
- 38 Bon Appetit for 107th Airmen
- 40 An Air Afghan Mobile Medic'

### New York Guard

- 42 Keeping Our Guard Up for Domestic Response

### New York Naval Militia

- 44 Fleet Week Keeps Naval Militia Busy
- 45 45 Years of NY Naval Service

### Guard News Briefs and Photos

- 46 Airman and Trooper Tops TAG's List
- 48 Guard Soldier A Haitian Relief
- 49 Reuniting Rainbow Division Soldiers in Louisiana



206th Military Police Company commander, Capt. Kevin Manion (center) and 1st Sgt. Joseph Martel, 206th MP Company first sergeant, furl their company's guidon during the 203rd MP Battalion and 206th MP Company end of mission ceremony, Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, June 6. Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Bince

**ON THE COVER:** Specialist Yijin Huang, a crew chief with the 42nd Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade June repels off the training tower at Camp Smith as he participates in a pre-air assault course held there June 2-6. The course prepares New York Army National Guardsman to attend the two week course.

**BACK COVER:** Brigadier General Verle L. Johnston, Jr. commander 105 Airlift Wing welcomes President Barack Obama, accompanied by Secretary of Veteran's Affairs Eric Ken Shinseki, to Stewart Air National Guard Base on the morning of May 22. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

## Chaplain's Corner

### 'Belonging:' A need for us all

Commentary by Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen, Joint Force Headquarters

As military professionals, we spend a great deal of our lives, our time and our energy assuming new roles and greater responsibilities in the National Guard. From the newest recruit to the retiring veteran, we have accepted a mantle of patriotism that a majority of our nation's citizens could not, would not and do not wear.

This does not necessarily make us better citizens or guarantee us a better life. It does, however accord us certain privileges and the distinct honor of having stood with a very long line of brave, courageous and honorable men and women.

Once in the service for our country, whether it be a three year National Guard enlistment or a thirty-five year military career, our Soldiers and Airmen are part of a unique team and will be for life. Like the lyrics to the Eagles' Hotel California, "you can check out any time you want, but you can never

leave."

This is not to say that a military calling, our calling, is a prison. It means that once you have been part of this great organization, it is inside you and becomes a part of you. You have changed.

As I travel the state, I encounter thousands of military veterans who once served and who have stayed connected to the military, their buddies and their communities through belonging to such organizations as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, the Iraq-Afghanistan Veterans Association of America or the Disabled American Veterans, to name a few.

These organizations are not groups of strangers, but rather fellow brothers and sisters who have faced the daunting challenges and sacrifices we struggle with and through every day. Just like you, they have a story to tell. Just like them, God willing, you'll be older,



Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Parker from the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery speaks with his Soldiers prior to weapons qualification training at Fort Drum on April 23. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 1-258th Field Artillery.

wiser and filled with the pride borne of accomplishment and a job well done.

There is no greater company that I know of than those trusted souls I have served with in harm's way. We have an acknowledged understanding beyond words; it is a sense of belonging and fidelity.

In a world that is fragmented,

hectic and compartmentalized it is good to belong and know that you are not alone. The hard part is reminding ourselves that we are not alone, that this path is wide and that there are good people around who have traversed the ground, found the traps and made it through. There is strength in those numbers. **gt**

## Military Families Discount Vacations Available

### Armed Forces Vacation Club website makes it simple to select and book vacations online

PARSIPPANY, N.J. - Endless Vacation Rentals (EVR), one of the Wyndham Worldwide family of brands, announced Jan. 28 the launch of a new Armed Forces Vacation Club website that allows military families and government employees to easily search for and book discount vacation rentals at resorts worldwide.

Available at [www.AFVClub.com](http://www.AFVClub.com), no registration is needed and only proof of DOD affiliation or military ID is required to access available vacation rentals.

"The new Armed Forces Vacation Club site offers military families and government employees the opportunity to take advantage of some great vacation rental options," said Sean Lowe, managing director, Endless Vacation

Rentals and Revenue Management. "For 10 years, EVR has offered great Space-A weekly vacation rental rates to military families and, now with the enhanced site, visitors can search available dates for selected destinations, book securely online and complete the reservation transaction in three easy steps."

AFVClub.com offers advanced booking functionality that allows visitors to view all rental options available, including Space-A accommodations, along with quality resort photos and descriptions. By clicking on the search tab for Space-A accommodations, visitors can access a list of featured destinations worldwide, accompanied by a Google map that helps visitors navigate and learn about featured destinations worldwide.

"All of our Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices now have their own dedicated page which features monthly deals and highlighted destinations," added Lowe. "With this feature, visitors can set their own Morale, Welfare and Recreation booking session which will automatically set their installation number for future reservations allowing quick and easy booking and confirmation."

For additional information on the Armed Forces Vacation Club visit [AFVClub.com](http://AFVClub.com).





Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Soldiers on Fort Bragg, N.C., June 2. Mullen held an all-hands meeting with more than 120 Soldiers to address questions and concerns that they have, ranging from medical care and time at home between deployments to the possible repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' Photo by Spc. A.M. LaVey, American Forces Press Service.

## Opinions critical to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' review

*By Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden, American Forces Press Service*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- Servicemembers' opinions are "absolutely critical" in implementing policy for a repeal of the law that bans gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military, the nation's top military officer said here June 3.

"Your view and opinion of [gays and lesbians serving openly] is absolutely critical to address those issues," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told 18th Airborne Corps Soldiers during a town hall meeting.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates directed a military-wide review of the impact of the repeal, including town hall meetings with servicemembers and their families. The review is to be completed by the end of December.

Gates and Mullen want to ensure troops are ready to make the change and can do so without hurting unit cohesion, military readiness, military effectiveness, and recruiting and retention.

"One of the reasons the study and review is so important is because there isn't any subjective data out there, particularly from you and those who will be most effected," the admiral told the Soldiers.

Allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly, Mullen said, is a direction the military needs to move forward on.

"The law needs to change," he said. "Fundamentally, it's an issue of our values. It's very critical for us as an institution, and I'm hard-pressed not to support policy and a law that forces individuals to come in and lie

everyday."

Mullen's remarks on the topic were sparked by a senior noncommissioned officer's question. The Soldier expressed his concern for the possibility of hate crimes and increased cases of sexual harassment if the law changes.

Mullen told the Soldier that disciplinary issues regarding sexual harassment have nothing to do with the change in the law and should not be tolerated, period.

"Certainly any change in the laws is not an excuse for anything like that to ever happen," the admiral said. "We are a disciplined force. We have standards. Maintaining those standards, sustaining that discipline is our job, no matter what happens.

"I have every expectation that not only we will do this, but we will lead in a way [so] it gets done," Mullen continued. "[But] that doesn't mean we won't have challenges."

Ultimately, he said, troops and leaders need to have a greater understanding of the impact openly gay and lesbian servicemembers will have on the military.

"I want to understand what the possibilities are ... what it's going to take to implement this and, in that regard, address the leadership challenges and implementation with expectations that at the small-unit level, not exclusively, it will be led and led well," Mullen said. "I have a lot of faith in you that that's doable." **gt**

# 'Strength from Within' can Boost Physical Fitness

By Patrice Mauck-Messer, National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Today's Army National Guard is currently fighting many different battles on many different fronts, and one of them is for a higher level of physical fitness.

"The very foundation of readiness and deployability is physical fitness," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs and past Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard. "You have to be able to physically endure the rigors of combat before you consider the other requirements. That's why the Army Guard's Decade of Health Program (DoH) ties right in with ongoing mission readiness objectives that focus on increasing awareness of physical fitness, health and nutrition."

Gipe is concerned about the overall declining state of physical fitness that is affecting the Guard, and salutes the DoH for being a proven asset to help Soldiers raise and maintain their level of fitness for duty – and for life. "The fact that some Soldiers are having difficulty meeting the Army Guard physical fitness standards is a problem," says Gipe.

This affects morale, esprit, camaraderie and even promotions. "When a Soldier fails to meet APFT or height/weight standards at a leadership course, they think it's no big deal because they'll graduate anyway. But the fact is they carry a certificate that reads 'marginally achieved course standards.' That will affect a Soldier's promotion potential for the rest of their career. It's a problem that has to be addressed," and DoH is doing that.

Gipe went on to explain that, by regulation, the Guard Soldier must meet the same physical fitness standards as those of the regular Army.

"The guy who drives a truck for a living, while simultaneously serving as an ARNG Soldier, usually doesn't have the time, the means or the equipment to maintain the required levels of fitness and weight standards. He goes from truck driver to Soldier overnight, which requires him to carry up to 80 additional pounds

out there among the young Soldiers," he said. "I would estimate this number has doubled in the last few years." In fact, smoking is such a lethal problem that he hopes it will be one of the behavioral health issues the DoH tackles in the future.

Safety issues with regard to the escalating numbers of accidents involving motorcycles and cars at high rates of speed, and of course, substance abuse is also on Gipe's mind. Because of the combat situations American Soldiers face, he is afraid that "young Soldiers may have become adrenaline junkies, developing a need to get that 'rush' from doing something on the edge."

Gipe emphasized that health and physical fitness are integral to being successful, not only in the National Guard, but in life. "Physical fitness is not just a readiness or deployability issue – it's a national issue and a lifelong quest.

If you are physically fit, your whole body works better. You think better; your awareness of every aspect of your life is clarified; it

can change the mindset of the Soldier and the Family."

Gipe cites another reason why he is a firm believer in the value of the DoH Program. "It is one of the best programs we have available—but I'd like to see it brought to a much higher level. I'd like to see it take a bigger role in all the states. The campaigns are known in the Washington D.C.-area, but maybe not as much in the 54 states and territories. I plan to make my replacement aware of the importance of the program."

The unique motto on Gipe's official coin reads "Strength from Within"—perhaps this motto will be helpful to Soldiers in enhancing their physical fitness and fitness for duty. **gt**



on his body, depending on his MOS. If he is not in good physical condition, this can result in physical problems like back and knee injuries. This situation is a major cause of nonbattle injuries," warns Gipe.

Gipe applauded the DoH dental readiness campaign, ARNG Dental Bytes, as the most successful and relevant, but said that every one of the four annual campaigns have been good. "Dental readiness brought not only awareness of a huge issue, but partial resolution of the problem."

What is the most imperative health battle for the Army Guard Soldier in the future? Gipe responded unequivocally, "Smoking! There's been a huge increase in the number of smokers



## All Soldiers

Are Required To Wear The Following Personal Protective Equipment While Riding A Motorcycle:



DOT Helmet with face shield



Impact goggles



Long sleeved shirt or jacket



Sturdy over the ankle footwear



Long pants



Full fingered gloves



Brightly colored outer garment vest/belt/riding jacket (day) retro-reflective upper garment (night)



IG: "We Are An Organization of Standards and Discipline."

Colonel Eric J. Hesse  
Command Inspector General

The topic for this edition of the Guard Times is STANDARDS. It is about knowing, enforcing and following them. Inspectors General put things neatly into three categories, Don't Know, Can't Comply and Won't Comply. The last is most frustrating and also the most dangerous. It's the Soldier that continues to ride his motorcycle everyday without reflective gear, or a helmet that is not DOT approved, refusing to follow the standard. That same Soldier certainly wouldn't get in a helicopter without going through preflight or in a car without a seat belt...or would he? Would we walk by our Soldiers who clearly have chosen to violate the standard?

The following is from TAG's Command Training Guidance, June 28, 2010. I cannot say it anymore clearly than it is articulated in the first sentence:

We are an organization of standards and discipline. They are the foundation of everything we do. A resilient force requires confidence of your Soldiers in their chain of command. Effective leadership, enforcement of standards and discipline, and communications fosters that confidence.

It is up to us to police each other and make the correction. Our junior leaders need to get in the game and be the standard bearers. **gt**

# Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

## Soldier Recognition

Federal and state military awards and decorations are issued in recognition of meritorious achievement or service. Soldiers who receive these awards have made significant contributions, enhancing the readiness and mission success of the command to which assigned.

The proper recognition of a Soldier's service and career achievements is an important obligation to Soldiers and their families. The Adjutant General has recommended that commanders must set aside time dedicated to proper Soldier recognition. A minimum of 60 days should be allowed for the processing of a request for all state and federal awards, with the exception of the Legion of Merit, which requires at least 90 days.

Point of contact within Military Personnel for federal and state awards and decorations is Spc. Rosenberger, at 518-272-3988 or Spc. Kenyon at 518-270-1539

## Award of Combat Badges

National Guard Bureau requested a review of the potential disparity between standards by which the Combat Infantry, Medical, and Action Badges, are granted in theater and how they are adjudicated by Human Resources Command when submitted after redeployment. After that review, the Chief of Staff of the Army stated that standards will remain the same.

In light of the above, it is imperative that commanders ensure that orders for combat badges and awards are completed while in theater, as this is the surest way to guarantee that Soldiers receive the recognition for actions.

The bottom line is that Commanders must make every effort to submit all end of combat tour awards and badges in theater prior to redeployment.

## Know your NGB Form 4100

Q: What is an NGB Form 4100?

A: An NGB Form 4100 is a snapshot of your Enlisted Promotion Points broken down in categories.

Q: How often can I update my 4100?

A: Anytime, please see your Unit Administrator to submit the documents to be updated

Q: What is the purpose of the initial 4100 sent out by MNP?

A: To give soldiers' the appropriate time-

frame to get it updated before the cutoff date for updating points for that promotion cycle.

Q: If documents are in my iPerms record, does that automatically mean it will update my 4100?

A: No, if something is missing on your 4100, the SIDPERS database needs to be updated at MNP. Your unit administrator needs to send these up the chain of command.

Q: What happens if I don't get my 4100 updated before the suspense date?

A: Those documents will not count until the next year's cycle, but will be updated on the SIDPERS database so they will reflect on your 4100 for the following promotion cycle.

While the above stated mimics the memorandum sent in March, it is essential that units establish Standard Operating Procedures for ensuring that APFT scores are current in SIDPERS (10G) and all other issues are dealt with as per the regulation.

In an attempt to make information more readily available to the field, MNP has created an application that provides Soldiers with their current APFT, weapons qualification, along with a quick snapshot of EPP and other related information <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>.

## APFT Required For Selecting Soldiers From Promotion List.

Any Soldier with a failed or outdated Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) on SIDPERS (10G) on the day of selection will be considered in a nonpromotable status and will not be selected. A Soldiers' APFT is considered not valid and will deem them nonpromotable when either of the following occurs.

a. APFT is out of tolerance (older than 14 months for MDay and 8 months for AGR Soldiers.

b. Failed the last record APFT on SIDPERS (10G).

If a Soldiers' APFT is out of tolerance and they have a valid temporary profile filed at MEDCOM, they will be coded as 999M on SIDPERS (10G).

a. All traditional National Guard Soldier temporary profiles will be initiated through MEDCOM. If an AGR Soldier receives a temporary profile from another medical facility

they must forward to MEDCOM after initiated to ensure it is entered into MEDPROS.

b. If Soldiers fails to have a temporary profile on file with MEDCOM they will not be coded 999M in SIDPERS (10G) and Soldiers will not be selected for promotion.

c. Soldiers with a valid temporary profile can be promoted as long as they had a valid, passing APFT on the date the profile was issued.

d. If a Soldier has an outdated APFT due to mobilization, refer to MNP Policy 09-02 for selections and promotions.

## New NYARNG Form 120R-E.

Soldiers can now complete and submit NYARNG Form 120R-E directly to MNP. If the Soldier does not submit an automated 120R-E the unit can currently still submit a paper copy with the EPP packet.

It is however very important that Soldiers use the automated form because it will streamline the promotion process, allow MNP to publish the Promotion lists by the suspense dates given and significantly cut down on material errors made during list creation. The automated form along with the 120 tracker is located on the Enlisted Personnel page at the following link, <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>. When the 120R-E is received at MNP the Soldier will receive an e-mail confirming receipt and it will be placed on the 120 tracker so the units can track which Soldiers have submitted the form.

## Security Clearance Initiation Via Electronic Questionnaires

When initiating security clearance requests through the e-Qip system, it is extremely important that Soldiers and civilians utilize the Applicant Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Processing (e-Qip) Handbook. Following the steps outlined in the handbook will avoid delays in the completion and processing of the security clearance packet. Complete procedures and instructions on initiating security clearance requests through e-Qip can be provided by the JFHQ-MNP Security points of contact Sgt. 1st Class DeVaul @ [john.devaul@us.army.mil](mailto:john.devaul@us.army.mil), Staff Sgt. Goggin @ [shawn.e.goggin@us.army.mil](mailto:shawn.e.goggin@us.army.mil), Sgt. Proctor @ [jeff.proctor@us.army.mil](mailto:jeff.proctor@us.army.mil) or Sgt. Locke @ [juanita.m.locke@us.army.mil](mailto:juanita.m.locke@us.army.mil) or through



the JFHQ-MNP Personnel Services AKO site at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/group-page/83869>.

### **New Statement Requirement For Every Administrative Separation.**

A new requirement was set out by Army Regulation 135-178/revision April 27, 2010. The "Victim of Sexual Assault" statement, which is used to positively identify a Soldier as having been, or not having been, a victim of sexual assault must be included with every administrative separation packet, regardless of type. The complete regulation can be found on the Army's Publishing Directorate at <http://www.apd.army.mil>. Specific information regarding the requirement can also be found through the JFHQ-MNP Personnel Services AKO site at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/group-page/83869> under MNP-PS, Drug process or by contacting Staff Sgt. DeRenzo @ ruth. [derenzo@us.army.mil](mailto:derenzo@us.army.mil).

### **Officer Policy Considerations.**

Officers will need to take into account some new and not so new policies that can affect their career decision making. First is the current policy that no longer allows officers to be assigned to the Inactive National Guard (ING). NGB-ARH memorandum, Subject: Interim Policy Guidance for Management of the Inactive Army National Guard, August 17, 2009. Paragraphs 14 and 15 state that officers are ineligible for assignment to the ING, based on Section 303(b) of Title 32 of the United States Code (USC).

If officers are having temporary problems, whether employment, personal, etc., that affects their ability to drill, the ING option is no longer available. Unit leaders will need to work with the officer to determine the best course of action to support retention. Example is an officer's civilian employer is relocating the officer out of state for an unknown amount of time, anticipated at being 6 months to a year. He/she notifies the chain of command of the employer's decision. Options to explore could include, a flexible SUTA policy, locating a local unit and arranging for the officer to drill locally with that unit, or interstate transfer – all dependent on the case by case specifics.

The second is service obligations for training.

NGB-ARH memorandum, Subject: Service Obligations for Training Requirements, Army National Guard Personnel (NGB-ARH Policy Memorandum #06-081). Officers who attend military funded professional education courses, incur an obligation to remain in service, dependant on the number of days of training attended (e.g. 16-30 days incurs a one year obligation).

So why is this important? Officers who may be considering retirement or separation must be aware of any incurred obligation in determining the effective date of retirement/separation. Effective dates will not be prior to the service obligation for training date. For example an officer graduates from Army War College on July 25, 2008; they are not eligible to be retired/separated until July 24, 2010. Units need to comply with MNOT memorandum, Subject: Change No. 1 to Pre-Enrollment Checklist Policy, June 14, 2010, prior to reporting at the schoolhouse. Officers scheduled to attend school should review the policy memo indicated above and if you are not provided a statement of understanding of incurred obligation, ask for one.

For further information regarding this matter please contact Lt. Col. Albert Oquendo at (518) 272-6493.

### **Continuation Of Tricare Extended Benefit Program.**

If a service member receives a diagnosis for a condition that develops or is discovered during their 180 days of TAMP that is mobilization related or caused, he or she may request an additional 180 days of medical coverage for the Soldier ONLY. The family is not covered for this additional time.

The Soldier and the treating physician will complete the application for the extension. The application and medical documents will be forwarded to the MMSO through TRICARE, where the MMSO DOD Physician will verify the condition and approve the application. This extended coverage is not a TRICARE benefit but a MMSO covered benefit administered by TRICARE.

For more information about the program, go to [www.tricare.mil/tcsr](http://www.tricare.mil/tcsr).

### **Casualty Affairs Coordinator.**

1st Lt. AshLee Coye has joined the Military

Personnel Staff as the newly appointed Casualty Affairs Coordinator. She is replacing 1st Lt. Joshua Heimroth in that position. Coye is the Point of Contact for the state's servicing Casualty Assistance Centers (Fort Drum and Fort Dix) and can be contacted at 518-270-1542 or by email [Ashlee.coye@us.army.mil](mailto:Ashlee.coye@us.army.mil).

### **Survivor Outreach Services Coordinators.**

New York has added a second Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator. Mr. Dan Arena joined the team and is currently working out of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) in Syracuse to provide support and services to the families of our Fallen Heroes in the central and western counties. Dan can be reached at the office 315-438-3301, cell phone 315-373-6589 or email: [daniel.arena@us.army.mil](mailto:daniel.arena@us.army.mil)

### **Education Bonuses**

A new Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) policy was released June 16, 2010. Under the new policy, incentives will not be offered to any applicant when the state has obtained its end strength mission. The only exceptions to this rule are Reenlistment, Officer Accession, Officer Affiliation and MOS Conversion Bonus.

Soldiers may receive Reenlistment Bonuses (REB) up to \$5,000. Soldiers must be in their 12 month REB eligibility window, but cannot have reached 90 days from their current ETS. (Soldiers at 90 days or less from ETS are not authorized the bonus). Eligible Soldiers must also meet Time in Service requirements, based on their rank: E1-E4 must be under 8 years of service, E5 under 11 years and E6 or E7 under 13 years.

The complete policy is posted on the Education AKO website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>.

For more information or to find out if you're eligible, contact your Battalion Career Counselor or Unit Career Counselor.

Missing high school diplomas and DD 214s will delay bonus payments and GI Bill benefits. Ensure your unit has posted these documents on your iPERMS file or forward them to Education Services Office immediately. A list of Soldiers missing high school diplomas can be found at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/535774>.

## Brooklyn-Based Guard WMD Has The Right Stuff

Specialized Civil Support Team now set for certification

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters



A member of the 24th Civil Support Team reconnaissance section begins to take samples from a simulated clandestine lab at a crime scene as part of the unit's formal evaluation in New York city on June 8. Photo by Sgt. Errol Cadet, Joint Force Headquarters.

RANDALLS ISLAND, N.Y. - The New York National Guard's latest anti-terror unit has passed its formal validation exercise and is set for certification by the Secretary of Defense for employment against potential attacks at home.

Following a day-long exercise on June 8 conducted at the New York City Fire Department's Fire Training Academy on Randalls Island, the 24th Civil Support Team (CST) for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) has completed all training to respond to potential attacks or incidents involving the possible use of chemical, biological or radiological agents or the use of high-yield explosives.

The unit is based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn and is the second such unit assigned to the

New York National Guard. The 24th is specifically assigned and dedicated to covering the New York City area. The highly specialized unit is the latest addition to the Guard's homeland defense and emergency response capabilities in support of civil authorities. It is another asset that the state and city can count on to help protect lives and protect communities.

"We are building our CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive) response capability for New York and specifically for New York City," said Lt. Col. Matt Cooper from the Joint Force Headquarters. He oversees the training, development and fielding of Guard WMD response units in New York to support civil authorities when disaster strikes.

He formerly commanded New York's 2nd CST based in Scotia near Albany.

The exercise was the last step in the process to certify the 24th CST, which is part of a national program that includes 57 such units in every state and territory.

Civil Support Teams are specialized units comprised of 22 full time Army and Air National Guard professionals uniquely trained and equipped to respond to terrorist attacks or other events where WMDs or high yield explosive agents may have been used. These units rapidly mobilize and deploy to work for the civil authorities under the national incident command system to detect contamination, identify it and assist with follow on support.

The 24th has been training since June 2007 following authorization for another unit specifically for New York City, which remains a primary terrorist target. Unit members also had to complete demanding service schools at various military bases in order to be certified in their specialties.

“It’s really important to have a second unit based in New York City to speed the response time here,” said Cooper. “The 2nd CST remains upstate to cover the rest of New York while also standing ready to reinforce efforts down here as needed.”

The CST program began in 1998 following federal legislation designed to help prepare the nation for possible terrorist attacks that could involve the use of WMDs. The New York National Guard played a significant role in developing it. New York was among the ten charter states to field a unit that was validated for emergency response in 2000.

New York’s 2nd CST was the first to respond to an actual terrorist attack when it deployed to the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Three members of the 2nd CST at the World Trade Center are now assigned to the 24th in Brooklyn including the unit commander and first sergeant.

Since then, the program has grown nationwide thus providing local support for possible terrorist attacks or other incidents with highly trained staff and state of the art capabilities.

In New York, members of CSTs are often pro-actively positioned with federal, state and local security and emergency response agencies for large public gatherings including sporting events and celebrations that could become terrorist targets.

CSTs are periodically tested on their abilities to perform their mission by the U.S. Army and civilian emergency response agencies are also involved. The New York City Fire Department supported the exercise for the 24th CST on June 8 by hosting the unit at its Fire Training Academy on Randall’s Island which contains 27-acres of specialized facilities to support intense disaster training through a variety of scenarios in simulated urban settings. **gt**



Staff Sergeant Darren Odom, 24th Civil Support Team for Weapons of Mass Destruction checks equipment as members of the team’s recon section prepare to enter a potentially contaminated site during the unit’s evaluated exercise at the New York City Fire Department’s Fire Training Academy at Randalls Island, June 8.

# Guard Chief Visits Central NY Soldiers, Airmen

By 1st Lt. Greta D. Lewis, 174th Fighter Wing

SYRACUSE -- The National Guard's senior leader met with remotely piloted MQ-9 Reaper pilots, sensor operators and Airmen from the 174th Fighter Wing during a visit to Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, May 5.

General Craig R. McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, arrived at Syracuse University this week as a guest speaker at the National Security Management Course.

While in Central New York, he had an opportunity to meet with three major commands of the New York National Guard in the region - the 174th Fighter Wing, the Eastern Air Defense Sector and the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters.

After his speaking engagement, McKinley toured the MQ-9 operations building, the site from which 174th pilots and sensor operators today fly combat air patrol missions using the MQ-9 Reaper, a remotely piloted aircraft.

The air wing recently transformed to Reapers after flying the F-16 Fighting Falcons. The last two fighter aircraft left the base on March 6.

The Air National Guard unit is now converting to an attack wing. The 174th currently flies the state-of-the-art MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft in support of ground forces in



National Guard Bureau Chief, US Air Force General Craig R. McKinley meets with instructors at the Field Training Detachment at Hancock Field in Syracuse on May 5. McKinley was getting a tour of the school house responsible for all MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft maintenance training for the U.S. Air Force. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Fighter Wing.

Afghanistan, providing coalition forces with round-the-clock intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.

McKinley also visited the base's Field Training Detachment, the site where all MQ-9 Reaper maintenance personnel obtain specialized training to perform various maintenance functions. The detachment is responsible for training all Air Force components: active duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel.

"I want to thank the instructors at the Field Training Detachment for their hard work," McKinley said after reviewing the extensive maintenance training support for the entire Air Force MQ-9 force.

The Field Training Detachment began

graduating new maintenance operators in September last year.

McKinley also expressed how proud he was of the Soldiers and Airmen that make up the New York National Guard.

Col. Harvey VanWie, commander of the 174th Fighter Wing Mission Support Group and acting wing commander for the day, then hosted McKinley for a luncheon with about 50 Soldiers and Airmen at the Hancock Field Heritage Club.

"Just having the Airmen and Soldiers at this table, I can see that this organization is well run, well led, and has very motivated and dedicated people," McKinley told the assembled troops.

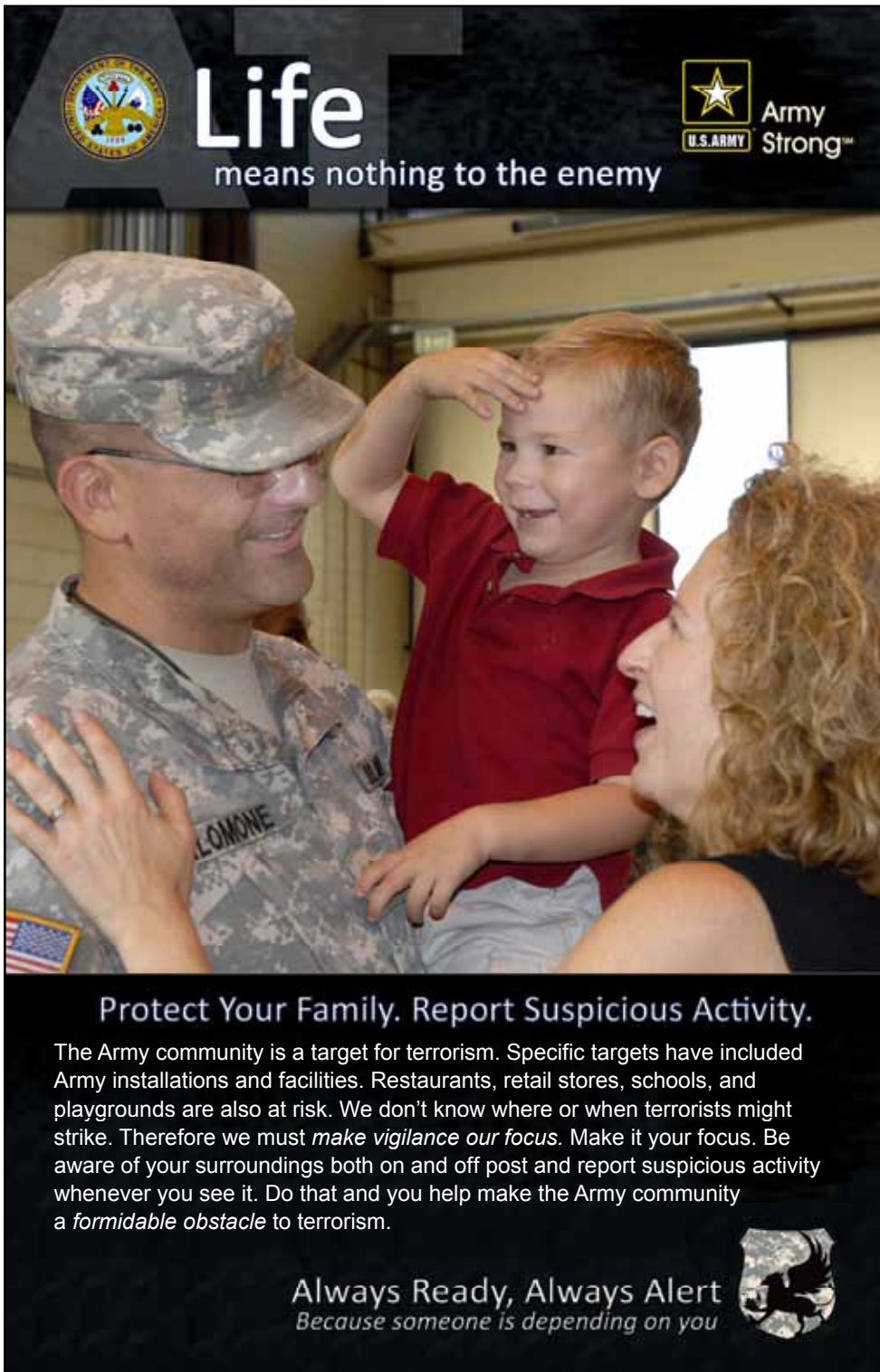
After concluding his visit to Hancock Field, McKinley visited the headquarters of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which has an armory on the air base. The brigade returned from deployment to Afghanistan about 15 months ago and completed the state's Soldier and family reintegration program last year.


"I can report today that the folks who live and work in Syracuse are doing a great job," McKinley said, "whether they be Army or Air National Guard." **gt**




National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Craig R. McKinley listens to The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, and 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander, Col. Geoffrey Slack, discuss the missions and recent deployments of the New York Army National Guard and what expectations for future missions might be. Photo by Capt. Robert Romano, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

# August is Army Antiterrorism Awareness Month




 **Life**  
means nothing to the enemy

 **Army Strong™**

**Protect Your Family. Report Suspicious Activity.**

The Army community is a target for terrorism. Specific targets have included Army installations and facilities. Restaurants, retail stores, schools, and playgrounds are also at risk. We don't know where or when terrorists might strike. Therefore we must *make vigilance our focus*. Make it your focus. Be aware of your surroundings both on and off post and report suspicious activity whenever you see it. Do that and you help make the Army community a *formidable obstacle* to terrorism.

**Always Ready, Always Alert**  
*Because someone is depending on you*




JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham -- Terrorism is an enduring, persistent, worldwide threat to our Nation and our Army forces. Army forces and communities must understand the terrorist threat, take actions to detect and deter terrorist activities, and warn and defend against the full range of terrorist tactics. The Army's antiterrorism (AT) program provides the defensive element in the fight against terrorists --and each and every member of the Army community plays a part in this fight.

On February 16, 2010, the Department of the Army announced intentions to conduct AT training, education and awareness throughout the month of August 2010. During this month, Army installations, facilities and forces are focusing their efforts to heighten awareness and vigilance to prevent and protect Army communities from acts of terrorism. By integrating AT doctrinal principles with constant AT awareness the Army ensures the safety and security of its people while ensuring mission success.

The four themes for AT awareness month include:

- AT training, education, and awareness for military and DA civilians.
- Suspicious activity reporting to include the indicators of potential terrorist behavior and activities and the type of information the community should report and where to report.
- AT roles and responsibilities for unit leaders and staffs within operational units, garrisons, stand-alone facilities.
- Enhancing AT preparedness through emergency response planning and local civilian and host nation partnerships.

Information and products to assist the local installations and units is available to unit AT Officers on Army Knowledge Online at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/605757>.

Always remember if you 'see something, say something'. In the community or in the armory, contact your supervisor, chain of command, the Joint Operations Center and the New York State Terrorism Tip Lines 1-866-SAFE-NYS and in New York City 1-888-NYC-SAFE. 

For more information, contact the NY National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Antiterrorism Program Coordinator, Mr. Gregory Psoinos at [gregory.psoinos@us.army.mil](mailto:gregory.psoinos@us.army.mil)

## Opening Day for National Guard Display

*By Guard Times Staff*



**ALBANY - On Easter Sunday 2004, two rocket propelled grenades slammed into the five-ton truck New York Army National Guard Sgt. Robert Landry and his squad were riding in on the outskirts of Samarra, Iraq.**

Pvt. Nathan Brown was killed instantly, another Soldier was seriously wounded, and Landry, a Saratoga Springs native, and other members of Company C, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry found themselves in the middle of a tremendous fire fight.

More than six years later, on Thursday, May 27; Staff Sgt. Robert Landry looked at an exhibit in the New York State Museum titled "The Battle of Easter Sunday", highlighting the history of that day, and Nat Brown's death, and remembered.

"While we were serving in Iraq we knew we put ourselves in the history books, but to let the community and let everyone else see a visual picture of what happened over there is huge," Landry said. "It's surreal."

The story of Charlie Company's Easter Sunday fight is just one of the New York Army National Guard's historic moments captured in a special exhibit called "Citizen Soldier: New York's National Guard in the American Century" which opened Memorial Day Weekend.

The exhibit outlines the history of the New York Army National Guard in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Desert Storm, 9/11 and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as in responding to domestic emergencies throughout the 20th Century.

The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and its New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center assisted in preparing the 5,000 square foot exhibit.

The museum had initially planned on doing a small National Guard display to coincide with Memorial Day, said Museum Director Clifford Siegfried. But as his curators and researchers dug into the Guard stories the exhibit turned into one of the largest temporary exhibits the museum has ever mounted, Siegfried said.

There was tremendous staff enthusiasm for the project, Siegfried said. The staff worked on weekends to put the display together and it was finished ahead of time. In the museum world, those are sure indicators that the staff is involved and excited, he explained.

"We think this is one of our best exhibits ever," Siegfried said. "This exhibition tells the story of how New Yorkers have taken on the

responsibility to protect and to serve New York and our nation throughout our history from the Militiamen who were vital protection on the colonial frontier to the present day service in wars around the world and domestic disasters."

The goal is to have a series of programs and events on the military and the New York National Guard throughout the year until the exhibit closes in March 2011, he said.

Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, praised the museum staff for their efforts in marking New York Army National Guard history.

"The exhibit itself draws you in," he said. A World War II light armored car loaned by a private collector, colorful display panels and photographs, and uniforms and equipment from throughout the 20th Century and today's wars are featured.

Visitors will be able to learn about the legacy of the National Guard, and he's hopeful that Guard members and their families will come from across the state to see the display, Murphy said.

"We appreciate being part of it and it has been a labor of love for many of our folks as well," he added.

Sergeant First Class Luis Barsallo, from Waterford, donated his Arabic phrase book, combat pack, worn desert boots, and the teddy

**"This exhibition tells the story of how New Yorkers have taken on the responsibility to protect and to serve New York and our nation throughout our history,"**

*--NYS Museum Director Clifford Siegfried*

bear his daughter sent him while serving in Samarra in 2004 to the museum, along with photographs.

"It is an honor and privilege to be a part of history and to be in a museum with all the other Soldiers," he said. "Some of the items bring back memories; my boots, the translation book."

"It was exciting to give something to help the display and explain some of the experiences we have gone through in the past, not just as Charlie Company, 2-108th but as the National Guard history," Barsallo said.

"I think it's a great tribute," Landry said. "We put our stamp in the history book, without a doubt." **gt**



Colonel Eric Hesse, New York National Guard Inspector General (left) and Maj. Joseph Chodnicki, New York National Guard Deputy Training Officer study the Task Force Phoenix display on the New York Army National Guard in Afghanistan, during the opening of the Citizen Soldier exhibit at the New York State Museum on May 27. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Joint Forces Headquarters

# 101st Cavalry Scouts Train on Urban Operations

By Spc. Coltin Heller, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard



At left, a cavalry scout Soldier returns fire on opposing forces during a field training exercise May 19 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. The squad drew fire as other scouts moved into the town. Below, a gunner provides overwatch as the group enters the town. The cavalry scout training brought together troops from a variety of units, including the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, the Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Photo by Spc. Coltin Heller, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Constant training is what gives Soldiers that certain edge, allowing them to handle almost any situation when in a hostile environment. Quality training is key, as the Cavalry Scouts who trained at the Military Operations on

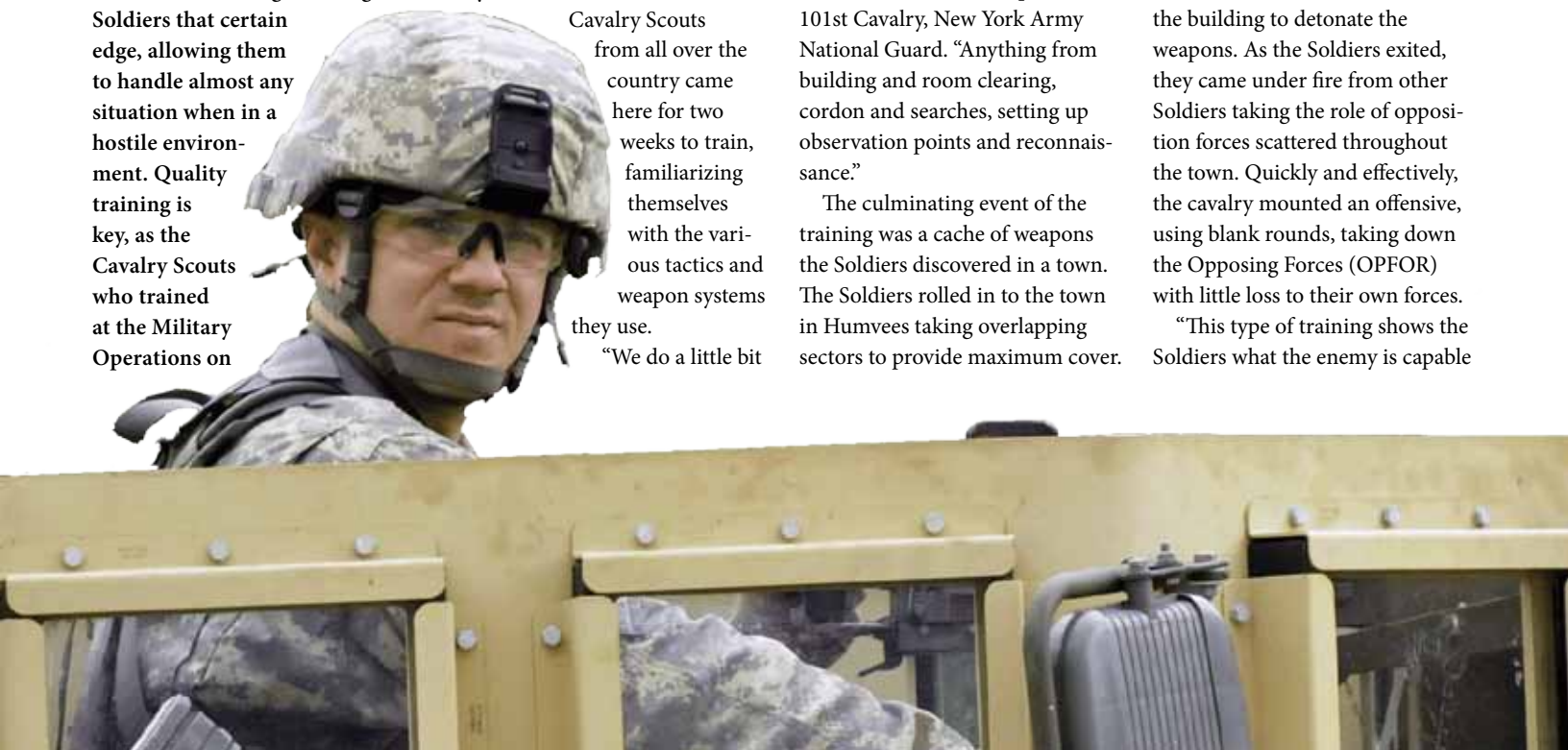
Urban Terrain site here in mid-May will attest.

Cavalry Scouts from all over the country came here for two weeks to train, familiarizing themselves with the various tactics and weapon systems they use. “We do a little bit

of everything,” said Sgt. Stephen Lahnen from the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, New York Army National Guard. “Anything from building and room clearing, cordon and searches, setting up observation points and reconnaissance.”

The culminating event of the training was a cache of weapons the Soldiers discovered in a town. The Soldiers rolled in to the town in Humvees taking overlapping sectors to provide maximum cover.

After over-watch was established, the scouts dismounted and entered the building to detonate the weapons. As the Soldiers exited, they came under fire from other Soldiers taking the role of opposition forces scattered throughout the town. Quickly and effectively, the cavalry mounted an offensive, using blank rounds, taking down the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) with little loss to their own forces. “This type of training shows the Soldiers what the enemy is capable





of,” said Sgt. Donald Hinton. Hinton, who is part of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard’s 131st Transportation Company, works primarily as OPFOR supporting the Soldiers training in the field. “It’s some of the best training around.”

For Cpl. Ray Novak, from the 3rd Squadron, 108th Cavalry, Georgia Army National Guard, this was his first time here. “It was a lot more than I had expected,” Novak said. “The facility was brand new. There was no junk lying around or anything run down.”

Specialist Jonathan Torres, also an OPFOR Soldier from the 228th Base Support Battalion, PAARNG, is impressed with the quality of the facilities. “Way better,” said Torres comparing the town to the old connex ranges. “There are actual buildings with doors and stairs, and all the buildings are furnished, adding to the realism.”

After the completion of the exercise the Soldiers can then review any mistakes and improve upon them for future missions thanks to multiple video cameras installed around the town complex.

“It gives them the opportunity to see their training from an instructors point of view,” Hinton said, referring to the



Cavalry scouts from the New York Army National Guard’s 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, far right, move through the MOUT area to eliminate enemy forces during a training exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. May 19. The training was part of a two week exercise culminating with the field training exercise. Below, scout vehicles move into a village to detonate a cache of weapons. Photo by Spc. Coltin Heller, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

cavalry scouts in training.

“It not only shows the Soldiers what they did, but to always be aware of their surroundings,” said Hinton.

“This is the best MOUT [Military Operations on Urban Terrain] site I’ve ever been to,” said Novak, adjusting the smoking M4 rifle on his shoulder. “Very real.” **gt**



Sergeant Stephen Lahnen, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, provides security for dismounted troops during a quick reaction force exercise at the Cavalry Scout school May 19, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Photo by Spc. David K. Strayer, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



Members of the New York Army National Guard's 206th Military Police Company waded into a crowd of well-wishers as they return to home station at New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters on June 18.

Approximately 70 members of the unit from New York's Capital Region returned to company headquarters in Latham. More than 160 National Guard Soldiers deployed to Iraq with the company and similar receptions occurred at Camp Smith near Peekskill, Utica, Rochester, Buffalo and Auburn. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

## Military Police Get to Home Station at Last

*Guard Times Staff*

**LATHAM - More than 60 Soldiers from New York's Army National Guard's 206th Military Police Company returned home from Iraq June 18 after being deployed for almost a year; just in time for the Fathers' Day weekend.**

Friends and families greeted them at the unit armory as two charter buses pulled into the parking lot where they conducted their demobilization out-processing.

"It was interesting," 206th MP Company Commander Kevin Manion said. "I was over there in 2003 and things have really changed. I'm really proud of my company. They did a phenomenal job."

Manion, who's been a member of the New York State Police for six years, said he was ready to get back to his job as a state trooper, also said that his work experience as a state trooper had prepared him well for his work in Iraq. Members of Manion's State Police Battalion

were there to welcome Manion and the other returning Soldiers.

He and his wife planned to head to a daycare facility to pick up his

2-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son after leaving the homecoming ceremony.

The 206th spent almost 10

months in Basra, Iraq. The company consisted of Soldiers from all over the Albany area, along with some from western and central New York. The entire command has about 160 members, many of whom were returning from their second tour of duty. They were part of the police transition mission in Basra, where they trained and mentored the local Iraqi police there.

Family members passed out small American flags to the crowd that gathered to meet the two arriving buses, and fellow members of the state's National Guard brought out cases of sandwiches, beverages and cookies for the reunited families and friends.

"I'm thrilled to be back," said Staff Sgt. Joe Lydon. "I just want to spend time with my wife and family."

He also said he was looking forward to hanging out with his dog Max, and doing things like hiking, kayaking, and bike-riding. **gt**



Staff Sergeant Joe Lydon from the 206th Military Police Company, is greeted by family members and his dog Max as he and the 206th arrive in Latham on June 18 after re-deploying from Fort Dix after spending a year in Iraq. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

# 'Crush Time' For Southern Tier Engineers

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters

WINDSOR – Nestled in the town of Windsor's quarry just east of Binghamton is the massive stone-crushing project of the 204th Engineer Battalion, New York Army National Guard and the battalion Soldiers who run it.

During drill weekends or annual training (AT), the battalion's Quarry Detachment crushes rocks to make various grades of gravel, most of

which is used for construction in the town of Windsor. It's a win-win arrangement for Windsor and the Quarry Detachment.

"They give us the big rocks, they give us the training area, and we give them the crushed stone," said Quarry Detachment Commander Capt. Bryan Reed, of Scotia.

A dozen Soldiers of the battalion's 827th Engineer Company are working at the quarry during annual training as well.

At the center of the project is the crushing, screening and washing plant, called the "crusher" for short, made up of crushers, conveyors, screens, a washing unit, five diesel engines and three 480-volt generators.

The plant takes up an acre of space and stands two stories high in places, according to Reed, it can produce three grades of stone as well as sand.

"It's the heart and soul of the Quarry Detachment," said Reed. They've been running the plant since June 5, and as of Sunday, they've produced about 1,500 cubic yards of material, worth between as much as \$80,000," he added.

The Quarry Detachment expects to triple that amount during AT to as much as a quarter-million dollar's worth of stone for Windsor, which relies heavily on the stone to use for roads and drainage ditches, explained Windsor Town Supervisor Randy Williams, who was effusive in his praise for both the project and the Soldiers.

The New York Army National Guard has been more than fair with our town, and we have a great working relationship with the Soldiers, he stressed.

"I can't say enough about what they do for us," said Williams, who has been the town supervisor since 1990. "They do all the crushing. They're saving us thousands of dollars."

The unit usually conducts annual training in August, but they scheduled it for June this year to meet the town's need for stone.

The Quarry Detachment was established in 2004, and some of the stone was used for reconstruction in the wake of Southern Tier flooding in 2006, Reed said. There are nine quarry units in the Army, Army Reserve and National Guard, but an Army survey showed that only the 204th Engineer Battalion Quarry Detachment uses and maintains their entire crusher regularly, Reed added.

"We're the premiere rock-crushing unit in the Army," Reed said, adding that he's willing to use the quarry project to train other units how to use and maintain their crushers.

Some Soldiers operate the crusher using a set of controls in a small platform called the crow's nest, while others use bulldozers, front-end loaders and dump trucks to feed stone into its maw. This amounts to on-the-job, hands-on training for all the detachment Soldiers, or what they call "stick time."

The Quarry Detachment is a highly specialized, stand-alone unit that can be attached to any other unit as needed, said Chief Warrant Officer Russell Corpin, 827th Engineer Company.

"They would be doing the same work if they deployed," he added.

"We're the foundation of any construction project. Right now, we're training as we fight." **gt**



A dump truck drops a load of rock into the 204th Engineer Battalion's crushing, screening and washing plant in the Town of Windsor's quarry. Called the "crusher" for short, the plant produces various grades of stone, most of which is used for Windsor's construction projects. Spc. Justin Race of Newark Valley, left, and Sgt. Joe Kellogg, of Greene stand in the crow's nest, where the controls are located.

# 3 year \$2,500- 6 year \$5,000 Reenlistment / Extension Bonus

## Qualifications:

- Must be E7 or below, in MTOE or TDA unit.
- Have not reached 90 days from current ETS\*  
Personnel who have reached 90 days have until 30 Jul 10 to extend
- Meet Time in Service Requirements  
E1-E4 Under 8 years at current ETS  
E5 Under 11 years at current ETS  
E6-E7 Under 13 years at current ETS
- Must be MOSQ in valid position or MOSQ within 24 months based on exceptions (ex Reorganizations)
- Soldiers deployed OCONUS are eligible for lump sum tax free payment regardless of MOS

Must not be coded AWOL with last 3 months preceding contract date

## Payment:

- Deployed OCONUS lump sum tax free on new contract date
- 3 year \$2,500:  
50% (\$1250) on new contract date, 50% on 3rd anniversary of contract date
- 6 year \$5,000:  
50% on new contract date, 50% on 3rd anniversary

For more information contact you local  
Recruiting and Retention NCO or unit Retention NCO

**NATIONAL GUARD** 

# 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Cooks Strive For Culinary Excellence

Story and photos by Pfc. Mary Hogle, 138<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

WINDSOR - Rain slowed, but didn't stop, the food service team from the 204th Engineer Battalion as they geared up to feed lunch to Soldiers during Annual Training at a stone quarry here.

The food service specialists from the 204th Forward Support Company (FSC) from Binghamton had been preparing for this day for two months and the rainy weather wasn't going to stop them from serving a prize winning lunch.

The 11 members of the mess section are in the running to win the Philip A. Connelly Award of Excellence in Army food service.

"I've never seen Soldiers so proud of their jobs," said Staff Sgt. Susanna Stacey, the senior foods operations NCO with the 204th FSC. "What they do they do for the troops, primarily."

Winning the competition would include cash prizes of up to thirty thousand dollars and scholarships for selected participants to attend culinary arts schools.

"If we win that will be great," said Pfc. Chad Grover, a food service specialist with the 204th FSC. "The most important thing

for us is to put on a good meal for the Soldiers," he said.

Though the 204th FSC recently received new equipment, they had to borrow from other units in order to participate. Winning one of the cash prizes would better equip the unit to provide support for Soldiers across the state.

"They are getting a name within the state," Stacey said. "We have Soldiers that go down to support Camp Smith. I have two here right now supporting the quarry."

"As opposed to catering, they would much rather have their cooking. They have just come to know that they are going to put on a better show, and it's going to be much more nutritious," she said.

Another reason for Stacey to enter her Soldiers in the competition was the training that they would receive. Rain and mud were two obstacles throughout the day that the competitors had to overcome in order to complete their mission.

"Where I see this environment really coming into play is the next time there is a natural disaster," said Daryl Moss, a chief warrant officer five and one of the competi-



Specialist John Stanley from Elmira Heights, one of the competitors from the 204th FSC, prepares food for the meal. The food service specialists are evaluated on aspects such as technique, skill, safety consciousness, professionalism, and presentation of product.



Specialist Steven Hoyt, 204th FSC, (left) from Endicott, serves food to a fellow Soldier. The days menu included roast turkey, gravy, mexican corn, corn soup, salad, and Florida lemon cake with a cream cheese frosting.

tion evaluators from Bowhead Technology Services, Inc.

The ability to maintain professionalism and safety standards were two of the elements the evaluators were looking for from the food service Soldiers.

"Every training environment we go into, we take something out of it," Stacey said. "We just continually build and build. In today's world, so we could end up being on a plane tomorrow."

Because of the weather conditions, the 204th FSC had to spend extra time making sure the site was safe and sanitary. Dozers and rollers were brought in to level the

ground, shallow trenches were dug to drain mud puddles and lighting prevented some of the tent coverings from being put up.

These delays put the meal behind schedule, but Stacey was sure her team would still do a good job.

"There may be some setbacks, time delays and mud, but other than that, it will be good," Stacey said. "I have total confidence in my team. They are phenomenal cooks and they just shine every time they're up there."

The decision for the regional competition will be announced in August and nationwide results will be released in January, 2011. **gt**

# 37<sup>th</sup> Finance Back Home After Iraq Tour

By Pfc. Ubon Mendie, New York Guard

NEW YORK – The 37th Finance Detachment is Back.

On July 22, the 37th returned home from a 13-month mobilization supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We are the money men,” said 1st Lt. Andrew King, 37th Finance Detachment executive officer. “Most importantly 26 left and 26 came back.

During the deployment the 37th was tasked with providing financial support for over 20,000 seamen, sailors, Marines and Department of Defense civilian employees in southern Iraq.

The team had been back in the states since July 18, following the troops’ self dubbed freedom flight to Atlanta. The Soldiers then connected to Philadelphia and were then bused to Ft. Dix, where they completed post-deployment in-processing.

After completing debriefs it was back to home base – the Lexington Armory.

“You’re back home from a job well done, but the hard part of your mission has just begun,” said Lt. Col. Norman Easy, deputy brigade commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade. “Statistically, more Soldiers die during post deployment than do in combat, so looking after your battle buddy does not stop now.”



Easy said a strong Soldier needs to take time in adjusting to being back stateside.

“Checking on each other during the future is paramount for a successful transitional period,” Easy added.

According to Easy, the detachment will have another welcome home celebration as part of the New York National Guard Yellow Ribbon reintegration program. The celebration will be a weekend-long retreat held at a hotel resort for both Soldiers and their relatives.

“It feels awesome to be back home,” said Alberto Caceda, a finance detachment team mission non-commissioned-officer. My fiancé and I are going on four-day vacations ‘till the end of August. We have a lot of catching up to do from the past year.” **gt**



Above Center, 37th Financial Management Detachment Sgt. Alfonso Villacres and Spc. Ronald Simmons provide finance support to U.S. Soldiers assigned to Joint Security Station (JSS) in Al Sheeb, Iraq, June 17. Photo by Pfc. Lukas McWhorter. Above, Sgt Alberto Caceda, a Woodhaven Queens native and 37th Finance Detachment team mission NCO is seen embracing his fiancé Nanci Gentileasca, as he returned back to New York City, July 22. Photo by Pfc. Ubon Mendie, NY Guard.

# 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade Welcomes New Troops to their Ranks

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortlandt Manor -- The 369th Sustainment Brigade welcomed 14 new Soldiers during a battle handoff ceremony here May 2. New Soldiers from the Recruitment Sustainment Program, led by Maj. Joel Buffardi, were passed to their drilling units, including the 719th Transportation Company, 1569th Transportation Company, 7th Finance Detachment, 4th Finance Detachment, 101st ESB, and the 442nd Military Police and 222nd Military Police Companies from the 104th Military Police Battalion. At right, Pvt. 1st Class Sol Torres salutes Maj. Buffardi, before receiving her RSP challenge coin. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jaime Lino.





The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle runs a dirt track test at the Churchville Test Area near Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., June 3.

## Army Tests New Tactical Vehicle

### Beginning of the end for the Humvee

*Story and photo by David McNally, Research, Development and Engineering Command Public Affairs*

CHURCHVILLE TEST AREA, Md. -- The Army is testing a new vehicle to eventually replace the iconic Humvee. Officials said the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle will offer increased protection and performance.

The Army put the new vehicles through their paces at a dirt test track about 30 minutes from Aberdeen Proving Ground June 3. At first glance, the JLTV looks heavier and safer than current light tactical vehicles. The armor plating and bullet-proof glass will offer better protection for the warfighter, officials said.

The vehicle has different configurations, which seat four to six people.

The JLTV project is a joint project, but also international. The vehicle is a collaborative product between the U.S. Marine Corps, the Army, the Australian government and three American industry teams.

"There are three contractor teams working on a common set of requirements," said Lt. Col. Wolfgang Petermann, project manager. "The vehicles have a little bit different design solutions built into them."

Petermann said the contractors delivered the vehicles on schedule and within cost requirements of the contract.

The contractors for the project are BAE Systems, General Tactical Vehicles and Lockheed Martin. During the 15-month design and build phase, industry teams interpreted military requirements to come up with their own vehicle prototypes. The phase ended May 3 when contractors delivered the vehicles.

Petermann said the group will conduct performance tests on the vehicles at Aberdeen Proving Ground to "provide an assessment of the technical and performance risks."

The team will also conduct tests at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., to assess vehicle reliability.

Chris Brouwer, chief systems engineer with the project, was on the team three years ago writing the original requirements and scope.

"It's been a great project so far," Brouwer said. "It's very rewarding to see the vehicles out here on the track and performing quite well." **gt**



Soldiers from the Kuwaiti National Guard decontaminate each other at a Host Nation Training Event put on by the 62nd Chemical Company at the Sea Port of Deportation, April 12. The units have been training together for approximately three months. At left, the 62nd Chemical Company works side by side with the 1108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team with the Kuwaiti National Guard at the Sea Port of Deportation, April 12. Soldiers from the EOD and 62nd Chemical Company walk to the decontamination lane after assessing an improvised chemical device.

## EOD Trains to Combat Chemical Terror in Kuwait

*Story and photos by Spc. Karen Kozub, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Members of the New York Army National Guard’s 1108th Ordnance Company, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team from Scotia, donned chemical protection suits during training alongside members of the Kuwaiti National Guard at the Sea Point of Debarkation/Embarkation (SPOD) here April 14.

The scenario portrayed an improvised chemical device at the port, where thousands of tons of material pass in and out of the U.S. Central Command theater of operations. For Soldiers more accustomed to the perils of unexploded ordnance or improvised explosive devices, dealing with potential terrorist use of chemical munitions added a new challenge.

The training was hosted by the 62nd Chemical Company from Fort Lewis, Washington. Preparations and training for the exercise lasted approximately three months.

This exercise originally started with one chemical platoon and a small element of the Kuwaiti National Guard. As time progressed and more planning went into the event it bloomed

into the entire 62nd Chemical Company, a battalion of the Kuwaiti National Guard, firefighters from the SPOD and the Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard’s 1108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team, from Scotia, New York.

Soldiers from the 62nd Chemical Company reconnaissance platoon first began the scenario with a recon of the port, looking for contaminated areas and safe avenues of approach to the reported terrorist device.

Once safe boundaries were established, the 1108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal team began their initial entry into the site where they discovered an improvised chemical device leaking. From there they assessed the device and rendered the area safe of the explosive hazard.

The EOD Soldiers then received personal decontamination while a chemical sample team and radiological team were sent to process samples of the device. The teams then moved toward the decontamination lanes to ensure proper removal of contamination from surfaces and individual Soldiers.

The Kuwaiti National Guard then provided support with decontamination all of the equipment.

The day’s events concluded with friendly interactions between Kuwaiti and American forces with important lessons learned and shared between the groups.

“The training was very successful, and went well,” said Capt. Vance M. Brunner, 62nd Chemical Company Commander. **gt**



The 62nd decontaminates a connex and its surrounding area after discovering a leaking improvised chemical device during training.



# MEDCOM Troops 'Trained to Save'

Story by Spc. Melissa D. Anderson, 42nd Infantry Division

**WATERVLIET ARSENAL -- For a traditional Guardsman, medical processing is a once a year event, but for Staff Sgt. Steve Vidal, the NCOIC of the New York Army National Guard health clinic at the Watervliet Arsenal, it's an every day profession.**

Vidal has been part of the New York Army National Guard's Medical Command for nine years and takes pride in the commitment and hard work members of Medical Command, or MEDCOM, demonstrate.

"MEDCOM is committed to providing all medical services Soldiers require and improving such services as we develop new techniques and apply new learnings," said Vidal.

The Medical Command oversees the medical readiness for Soldiers of the NYARNG by providing annual exams and helping Soldiers receive any additional required medical assistance.

"We're responsible for the medical readiness of 10,500 New York Soldiers, and we have one year to do it," said Maj. Michael Hannon, operations manager for the New York Army National Guard's Medical Command.

MEDCOM is responsible for providing the state with a general estimate of how many Soldiers are deployable based upon their medical readiness.

"It's our mission to make sure Soldiers are prepared for worldwide deployment, either overseas or in their own backyards," said Col. Craig Meinking, commander of the New York Army National Guard Medical Command.

MEDCOM is comprised of approximately 100 personnel including physicians, health care specialists, case managers, dentists, psychologists, administration and technicians all working to improve the medical readiness of the NYARNG.

A typical day at MEDCOM consists of planning weekends, maintaining health records, updating readiness statuses, and assisting Soldiers in becoming medically ready to deploy, explained Hannon.

MEDCOM does at least one Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) drill weekend per month where approximately 300 to 400 Soldiers are

processed, said Hannon.

The yearly Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) is MEDCOM's tool to ensure the troops' medical and dental welfare Vidal said.

"MEDCOM travels to different locations to perform SRPs and PHAs during different units' drill weekends," said Meinking. "We've virtually become a mobile medical team."

The clinic at the Watervliet Arsenal is one of three statewide, but it is the only one running on a weekly basis.

Vidal thinks New York is a pioneer for being one the only states to have a clinic operating during the week because it provides better care for the Soldiers.

According to Meinking, Soldiers in MEDCOM average about 30 to 40 days of Annual Training per year; more than a traditional M-day Soldier. MEDCOM isn't just one weekend a month.



MEDCOM Soldiers perform their combat medic duties by carrying out medical exams, drawing blood and giving shots during a PHA or SRP.

"The M-Day staff is involved in real world missions every time they put their uniform on," said Amy Sandgren, dental case manager for MEDCOM.

Vidal feels that daily and weekend medical operations performed by MEDCOM are vital for the NYARNG mission success and accomplishments.

"By identifying the Soldiers' medical needs we can prevent a great array of potential hazards and/or illness that could affect both domestic and overseas operations," he said.

For a few of our good customers the medical events seems a bit lengthy and maybe repetitive but it is the only way that we can assure that their health is in a good standing, said Vidal.

It's important that Soldiers are medically fit because it can hold them back from deployment, which decreases unit strength and readiness.

"Our goal is to get Soldiers back to a deployable status according to Army standards," said Meinking. "We try to insure all our Soldiers are fit to fight." **gt**



2nd Lt. Alexander Saxsby instructs land navigation and map reading for OCS Candidates Christopher Minah, Lia Rosado and Kelly Sayward June 26. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Douglas Sherman, Recruiting and Retention Command.

## OCS Soldiers Set for Success

*By Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff*  
**TROY -- Newly enlisted Army National Guard Soldiers heading for Officer Candidate School would get a heads up on essential training under a new program by the Recruiting and Retention Command.**

Dubbed Pre-OCS, the program provides Soldiers attending OCS with training in basic military skills and leadership, said Chief Warrant Officer Douglas Sherman.

Traditionally, Soldiers heading for OCS ranged from Specialists to Staff Sergeant and had military experience, he explained.

Now, in the post 9-11 environment, the Army National Guard enlists officer candidates directly off the street. These Soldiers have the educational level to be an officer, but they don't have three or four years of enlisted service behind them by the time they get to OCS, he said.

The goal of New York's Pre-OCS program is to give these future officer cadets instruction in land navigation, physical fitness, weapons, communications, and leadership so they know something about these subjects before they start their course.

The first test bed for New York's Pre-OCS program was run on the June 26-27 weekend at the Glenmore Road Armory in Troy.

National Guard officers can enroll in a traditional Reserve Component OCS program which they attend in drill and annual training status for one year or they can attend a nine-week, full-time OCS course. **gt**

# National Guard and NFL Mentor Athletes

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, HQ, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW YORK – New York Army National Guard Soldiers teamed up with the NFL to run the High School Player Development program for some 175 high school students at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens June 14-18.

National Football League (NFL) Commissioner Roger Goodell, a Western New York native from Jamestown, joined the group of local high school athletes June 17 after four days of rigorous field drills and exposure to National Guard mentors to talk about the merits of the program to bridge football skills and military values for academic and athletic achievement.

“This wouldn’t be possible without the support of the National Guard,” Goodell told the nearly 175 athletes during a break in the training, “these men and women represent all the values that we represent in the NFL and hopefully you’ll represent, and that’s why we have this partnership to make football available to you and more importantly, those life skills that we’ve talked about.”

The High School Player Development (HSDP) program, sponsored in large part by the National Guard, provides high school sophomores through seniors the opportunity to develop not only their fundamental football skills, but also teaches them how to be successful in life through character development.

“The real issue of what we’re here for is not to develop you as football players. If you guys turn out to be NFL players, that’s great, but that’s not what we’re here for,” Goodell said. “We’re here for an opportunity to let you get exposed to what we think is a great game; it teaches you a lot about life. It teaches you about the lessons and the values you’ll need to be successful on and off the field.

“Even if you’re lucky enough to make it to the NFL, you won’t play the game forever. All the things you’ve been learning out here on this football field, on and off the field, will stay with you the rest of your life,” he said.

The program first came to New York in 2003 with two sites the City and about 500 student athletes and 40 football coaches.

This spring and summer, the program is expected to reach more than 20,000 high school student-athletes nationwide at more than 125 sites in 34 states.

On-field components of the HSPD program include fundamental skill development. Par-



ticipants have access to innovative teaching and drills developed by leading NCAA coaches.

The athletes receive a total of 10 hours of football instruction and coaching and on-field drills over the five day session. Much of the first day is about developing successful habits and life skills, Tongue explained.

NFL officials recognize the great success that the program has and the wealth of unintentional opportunities and knowledge that it provides the young student athletes. The program is not only an opportunity to learn life skills from coaches, but also provides a chance to meet

with Soldiers and learn from them about the importance of teamwork and success.

A second camp was held for Batavia High School 260 in late June for Western New York and a third at the Field of Dreams on Old Sunrise Highway in Massapequa on Long Island from July 5-9.

“We really appreciate this partnership,” Goodell told the Soldiers from the Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Command and area Recruiting Assistant Soldiers. **gt**



At left, NY City High School football players participate in defensive line drills during the NFL’s High School Player Development Program June 17 at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens. Some 175 student athletes attended the free training camp from June 14-18, sponsored by the Army National Guard.



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell greets thanks Pvt. David Selman and members of the New York Army National Guard Recruiting team at Roy Wilkins Park during the NFL’s High School Player Development training camp June 17 in Queens, N.Y. Along with Selman were Private Leroy Poole, Sgt. Tom Davies in background, Private Nur Sadlee and Staff Sgt. Zipora Baez.

# NY Guardsman Helps Unveil NASCAR Paint Scheme

Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Baltz, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Florida Army National Guard

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. -- As most NASCAR paint schemes are used as advertising platforms, Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s partnership with the National Guard gives him a unique opportunity to dedicate his paint scheme for NASCAR's July 3 race to eight National Guard Soldiers and eight missions in which they served.

The "8 Soldiers, 8 missions" paint scheme was unveiled by Earnhardt and eight Soldiers, including New York Army National Guard Spc. Joseph Ruiz from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, on June 30 at an event in Daytona Beach that honored their sacrifice and selfless service for others.

"We take a lot of pride representing these eight Soldiers and the entire [National] Guard, and their sacrifices," Earnhardt said.

Earnhardt entrusted the design of the paint scheme to a friend and said he was clueless as to what it would look like until it was unveiled.

"It is a good looking car. I was excited," Earnhardt said. "It was great to have eight Soldiers here and listen to their eight missions. It gave me a lot of pride that I have for the Guard."

The eight Soldiers featured on the car, which will run at the Coke Zero 400 at the Daytona International Speedway, are: Ruiz, Spc. Tabitha Foster from the 201st Engineer Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard; Spc. Richard Ghent from the 1-172 Armor, New Hampshire Army National Guard; Staff Sgt. Justin Lampert from the 818th Engineer Company, North Dakota Army National



The eight soldiers from 8 Soldiers and 8 Missions stand with Dale Earnhardt Jr., after unveiling his car, June 30.

Guard; Staff Sgt. Daniel Caldwell from Charlie Company, 1-167th Infantry, Alabama Army National Guard; Staff Sgt. Ryan Brubaker from B Company, 1-163rd Combined Arms Battalion, Montana Army National Guard; Sgt. 1st Class Chris Dempsey from the Recruiting and Retention Command, Arizona Army National Guard; and 1st Lt. Reed Preece Troop C, 2-104 Cavalry, Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Brubaker, the National Guard Soldier of the Year, felt honored to be one of the select few.

"It is a humbling experience to be here," Brubaker explained. "They have all of these unique stories. It feels great to be shown care."

As Earnhardt gets to know the Soldiers and the National Guard, he said he gets more comfortable, making it a better relationship.

"It is really emotional, and I feed



Spc. Joseph Ruiz receives a plaque of recognition for the 8 Soldiers, 8 Missions from NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr., June 30, 2010. On July 3, Earnhardt's No. 88 National Guard Chevrolet featured a special paint scheme in honor of the 8 Soldiers and 8 Missions in which they served.

off of that emotion," Earnhardt said. "It is in the back of my mind throughout the event."

Earnhardt said that he enjoys events like these because it allows people to recognize the reality of

the sacrifice by National Guardsmen.

"We appreciate what they do for us," Earnhardt said. "We are really fortunate." **gt**

# CCMRF Aviation Units Get Ready For Response Roll

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade*

FORT DRUM – The acronym- spelled CCMRF and pronounced “See Smurf”-- is long and sounds a little funny; but the training to be part of that force was taken very seriously by 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers during their July Annual Training.

CCMRF stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRNE) Consequence Management Response Force. The CCMRF mission is to respond to an attack anywhere within the United States. The 42nd CAB picks up that mission on Oct. 1.

More than 300 New York Army National Guard Aviation Soldiers had their boots on the ground during annual training to prepare them for CCMRF emergency response situations.

Throughout the two week training from 8-23 July, company-sized units from the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, the 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, the 169th Air Ambulance Medical Company and the 126th Aviation Regiment cycled through CCMRF training lanes that focused on familiarization and qualifica-

tion with their individual weapons, use of their protective masks, Humvee rollover training, first aid, legal and media awareness classes.

“This is a national response mission that’s for the Guard.” said Maj. Jason Lefton, the commander of B Co. 642nd.

“It’s a hidden mission because there are Soldiers who have recently comeback from a deployment and Soldiers who are preparing to deploy, so there has been little opportunity for aviation Soldiers to complete a reset transition period. However, our Soldiers realize it’s about helping people, Lefton said.

For most aviation Soldiers attending CCMRF training, there is a lot of uncertainty of what to expect .

According to 1st Lt. Francis Salvadore, the commander of A Co. 642nd the response time to be ready to deploy to any disaster response is 96 hours, which will be demanding for Soldiers and their families.

“Our Soldiers look forward to getting involved in this mission as refuelers and materiel

distributers.” Salvadore said. “Especially since this company reorganized from Companies A and C of the 127th Armor.”

Although, New York’s aviation units trained as first responders for any continental disaster operation, they may not be first to arrive on the scene.

“We’re not the CBRNE folks.” said Capt. Chris Gagliardo, commander, Detachment 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment. “We are not first responders but more of a second push or wave.”

Being a heavy lift (aviation) asset we would be needed for rescue operations, mass casualty evacuation or moving around materials and machinery. Whatever the need, we’re gonna be the most ready. That is why the National Guard has spooled us up for this mission,” he said.

CCMRF is part of the U.S. Northern Command’s defense support to civil authorities to provide rapid response capability to assist local, state, and other federal authorities following a catastrophic event.



A female Soldier from Co. F, 1st Bn., 169th Avn. Regt., practises target acquisition at Fort Drum’s Virtual Training Facility. The indoor virtual training prepares Soldiers to get familiar with their individual weapons such as the M-9 pistol or the M-16 rifle in a controlled environment. Company F is a medical evacuation company from Rochester preparing to support CCMRF missions starting Oct. 1, if needed.



Private First Class Harley Jelis (left) and Pfc. Holden Davenport, Headquarters and Headquarters, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade use a fake wound and lots of field dressings to demonstrate to Soldiers of Company B, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion the importance of first aid in a field environment on July 11.

The 642nd is training in preparation for CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force missions on active duty if needed in the event of natural or man-made disasters

CBRNE incidents pose a great and very real security challenge in the United States. A terrorist attack or accidental CBRNE incident could be catastrophic and likely would overwhelm local and state authorities very quickly. Federal military forces have capabilities that, in a catastrophic CBRNE event, may be otherwise unavailable to states and localities.

A CCMRF is a joint force, usually organized under a two-star headquarters. It is composed of three subordinate colonel-level task forces: operations, medical and aviation.

Task Force Operations made up of an active duty army brigade combat team or maneuver enhancement brigade, augmented by active Army and Army Reserve logistics and specialized CBRNE units. It is capable of CBRNE detection and decontamination and can provide among other things, engineer, transportation, logistics, communication and public affairs support to local, state and federal entities.

“Being selected to represent the New York

Army National Guard is a good test for my unit readiness and overall Army skills.” said 1st Sgt. Mark Hansen, of Company F (Air Ambulance),

1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment. “This will improve our capabilities and make us even more useful for state missions.” **gt**

**“This is a national response mission that’s for the Guard.”**

*-- Major Jason Lefton, commander, Company A, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion.*



Soldiers from both Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment and Co. D, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion spent a hot July afternoon getting re-familiarization training on the effectiveness of their M40 Protective Mask at the gas chamber at Range 3A on July 15.

# Building Leaders

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters

ITHACA - Tempering the leadership mettle of tomorrow's Army officers was the objective of Operation April Venom, held here from April 29 to May 2.

About 140 ROTC cadets, including those with simultaneous membership in the New York Army National Guard, took part in the field exercise, which was held at Cornell University's Mount Pleasant training area east of the Cornell campus. The cadets belong to Cornell's ROTC program, which includes students from Cornell, SUNY Cortland, Binghamton University, Elmira College, Ithaca College, and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

The exercise was more mentally demanding for the cadets as they commanded squads and platoons on tactical lanes designed to test their leadership skills and ready them for Warrior Forge, a five-week evaluation course all cadets must undergo before receiving their commissions. The training stressed decision-making -- under the stressful conditions they should expect to encounter in a real-world operating environment.

In addition to planning and executing combat missions, the cadets reacted to snipers, mortar fire, casualties, media and civilians on the lanes -- simulated by other cadets or cadre.

Dealing with multiple situations teaches cadets to stay focused and not freeze up, said Cadet David Jakubiec, an RIT senior who helped facilitate the training and walked the lanes with cadets. They sometimes have to make decisions with little or no information, he added.

"We're about building decision-makers," he said. "We can't tell them everything, but we can teach them to keep making decisions."

The ROTC cadets include New York Army National Guard Soldiers like Cadet Hannah Baer, a Cornell sophomore and Cadet Anthony Pedicone, an RIT senior. Baer serves as a medic with the Auburn-based 102nd Military Police Company, and Pedicone is the commander of the rear detachment of the 105th Military Police Company, based in Buffalo.

He joined the 105th Military Police Company in 2006, and joined ROTC right after that so he could stay with the unit, Pedicone said. He took command of a platoon within two months,



ROTC Cadet Jonathan Roman, right, greets role-players who will guide him through a simulated minefield during Operation April Venom, which took place from April 29 to May 2. The role-players acted the parts of host-nation citizens to test the cadets' cultural awareness and negotiating abilities.

held the position for two and half years and passed Warrior Forge in 2008, he recalled.

Leaders can best deal with the simultaneous situations by focusing on the objective and effectively using subordinates, Pedicone said. He's learned to rely on NCOs, who have knowledge and experience, he added.

"The NCOs are extremely important," he said. "They've been there longer than any fresh cadet. If you earn their respect, they'll work extremely hard for you."

Baer originally joined the Virginia Army National Guard and recently transferred to New York. She enlisted to pay for college, but came to enjoy learning leadership skills and responsibility, she said.

"I like it a lot more than for just college," Baer said.

As a team leader on the lanes, she felt stress and worried about making the right decisions, Baer said. But that was what the training was all about, she added.

"It helps, because that's what war is like," she said. "I learned that making a decision and

going with it is better than hesitating." The scenario in one lane, for example, called for cadets to encounter civilians mistreating a prisoner, Jakubiec said. Applying cultural awareness and negotiating ability, the cadets were to stop the mistreatment, he explained.

"We try to give them situations which force them to apply the Army values and the ethical decision-making process," Jakubiec said.

Cadet leaders were evaluated on their leadership attributes after completing the lanes, including their adherence to Army values, mental agility, response to stress and judgment.

"It's stressful," said Jonathan Roman, a Cornell junior who led a platoon on an ambush mission. "You're graded on making good, confident decisions quickly. The more experience I get, the easier it is for me to make decisions."

"It's one thing to learn Army doctrine and tactical knowledge, it's another to apply it in real life," said RIT Cadet Kathleen Minor. **gt**

# Guard Divisions Discuss Home, Overseas Missions

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division

**NEW YORK - Leaders of the Army National Guard's eight division headquarters met in lower Manhattan June 5 to discuss future roles and missions in homeland security and overseas contingency operations.**

Hosted by New York's 42nd Infantry Division, the conference provided an opportunity to share best practices, insight and build greater inter-state cooperation.

"We've each come together with really different situations from division to division," said Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commander of the 42nd Inf. Div., "but there are many things we share. Defending America is our recognized home game and our away games are those missions in theaters overseas."

During the conference, Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, The Adjutant General of New York, stressed the important role Army Guard divisions play in support to civil authorities.

"We put a lot of emphasis on domestic operations in New York, and the 42nd Infantry Division is a big part of that," he said. "The division has always been a key player in our response."

"The division headquarters' leadership and staff bring order to chaos," Murphy said.

Part of that role for Army National Guard division headquarters is the new Domestic

All-Hazards Response Team (DART). The mission designates two Guard divisions, every two years, as planners and command and control in the event of an emergency in the United States.

DART planning helps Guard leaders know what military resources are available in one state to assist with emergency relief in another. Those forces then operate under the command of the Governor where the emergency exists.

The 42nd Infantry Division will assume the mission for the DART on the east coast in October and command and control the response force for the next two years. The 40th Division from California will also take the mission for the west coast this fall.

"We needed this a long time ago," said Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, commander of the 35th Infantry Division from Kansas.

Key to the daylong conference was a discussion of the way ahead for overseas contingencies.

Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg since November 2009, spoke about the National Guard as a full partner in the war fight since 2001.

"There are more similarities than differences between us now than in 2001," he said. "Today the Army truly is a single team. There is no stronger bond than we have today between our

two components, active and Guard," Helmick said. "We've been together in sustained combat operations for eight years, the longest time in our nation's history."

Helmick said there was a time when active Army leaders questioned the relevance or reliability of Army National Guard combat forces.

Not anymore, he said. "You provide the link, the bridge between the American people and the Army. You haven't missed a beat, you haven't failed in any mission given the Guard."

"We don't have the luxury of not working together anymore," Helmick said. "There's just not enough money or force structure for that."

The leaders from all eight Guard divisions agreed that the conference is a great benefit and agreed to support continuing conferences.

"We've been able to get better definition of our roles in the homeland defense and war fighter roles, and we need to have those assigned roles and responsibilities," Wickstrom said. "This conference benefits not just our Guard leaders, but the Soldiers back in the home states of all of the brigade combat teams that are aligned for training with the eight division headquarters."

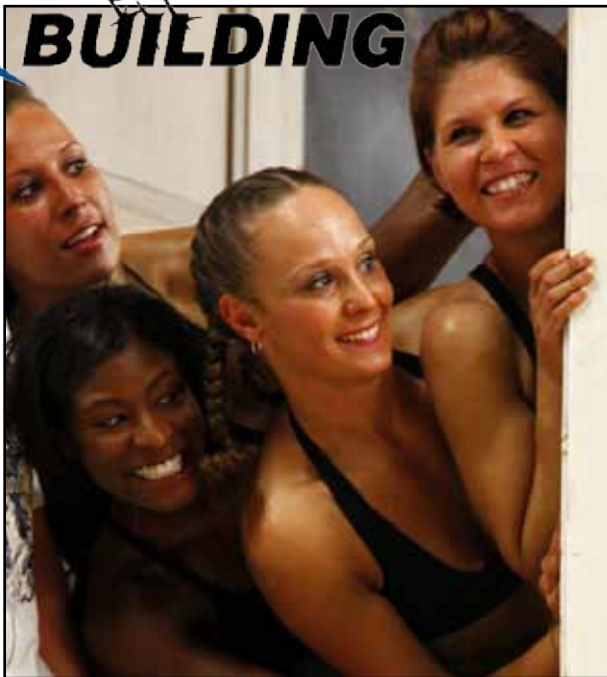
"We're better able to do our jobs as leaders when we come together." **gt**



Above, 42nd Infantry Division Commander Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom presents a Minuteman Statue to Lt. Gen. Helmick following his keynote address. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division. At right, Lt. Col. Patrick Macklin, (left), from the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Tactical Command Post, discusses the Domestic All-Hazards Response Team (DART) with National Guard Bureau current operations branch chief Lt. Col. Joseph Keller June 5. Macklin will lead the 42nd Infantry Division DART cell. Photo by Sgt. Errol Cadet, Joint Force Headquarters.



# BODY BUILDING



Top left photo, New York Army National Guard Spc. Jean Walton, center, looks on with fellow competitors during the men's bodybuilding competition during the first body building competition ever to be held on Contingency Operating Base Basrah, Iraq on May 29. In photo at right, Staff Sgt. Anthony Boodoo, and Spc. Osbed Betancourt, both of the 206th MP Company, pose for judges. The two Soldiers competed in the light heavyweight category, which had seven contestants. Photos by Staff Sgt. Adelita Mead, 55th Signal Company.

## 206th MPs Flex Some Muscle

### Basra Amateur Body Building Contest Draws Fitness Minded Troops

*Story excerpt by Jason M. Peverly*

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE, Basra, Iraq - The sun set slowly over the expansive desert of southern Iraq, temperatures dropping into the low hundreds. Lying on the outskirts of the city of Basra is Contingency Operating Base (COB) Basra. It is the military installation for thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airman. Combat Patrols, with convoys of vehicles and troops enter the city at all hours of the day and night. Missions range from training Iraqi Security Forces and maintaining peace through out the city. Operations are strenuous and push the troops around the clock, leaving little downtime.

But on May 29, those thoughts are not on Soldiers' minds. More than 400 servicemen and women gathered around a make-shift stage for the first ever "2010 COB Basra Amateur Body Building Contest."

This undertaking was the brainchild of Sgt. Mark D. Kring, a Military Police Soldier with the 206th Military Police Company, based in Latham, New York. A former 2002 Mr. New York, Kring is an avid nutritionist, bodybuilder

and weight trainer. Kring brought all of these talents to the table to better serve the New York National Guard and the contest.

Every contestant that took the stage were amateurs, just Soldiers who took great pride in their physique, diet and well being and wanted to show off and compete with one another. Kring modeled the event after Pro Body Building competitions, teaching each of the competitors' proper posing routines, including their mandatorys and free pose techniques. With only four weeks to find willing participants, train them and set them on the proper diet, it was a giant undertaking. All while serving in a combat zone.

Among the first contenders was the Women's Heavy Weight, consisting of Pfc. Tamara Rucker from the 354th Military Police Company taking 1st Place. The 206th MP Company's own Spc. Jean Walton took second place.

The contest emcee, Staff Sgt. Joe Lydon, also from the 206th MP Company, provided the audience with promotional items donated by Albany Strength, BodyBuilding.com and Gaspari Nutrition, without whom the contest never

would have been possible.

The 206th Military Police Company continued their winning evening across other men's categories as well.

In the Men's Bantam Weight, New Yorkers Sgt. Caleb Nappi and 1st Lt. Owen Calhoun from the 206th received second and third place awards respectively.

For the Men's Lightweight category, Sgt. Nick Isgro took first place for the 206th MP Company. In the Light Heavy Weight category, Spc. Obe Betancourt from the 206th took second.

The athletes were then judged on their overall posing ability with Spc. Jean Walton scoring another medal, gold this time in the 'Women's Best Posing Award.'

Supplements were supplied by private firms such as Albany Strength, who shipped its wares to members of the 206th Military Police Company for most of the tour and its owner John Payette donated over a thousand dollars worth of giveaways. Gaspari Nutrition also supplied some of the giveaways for the event. **gt**



# New Documentary on Guard Mentoring Afghan Army 'Camp Victory, Afghanistan' Offers Unique View of Special Challenge

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters

NEW YORK – A new documentary that features the unique and challenging role of National Guard trainers and mentors in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan is running at independent film festivals and other venues around the country and earning acclaim wherever it appears.

"Camp Victory, Afghanistan" was first screened at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas. Following a run in Little Rock, Arkansas in early June, "Camp Victory," came to New York City for the Human Rights Watch Film Festival on June 12, 13 and 17. Every seat in the Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater was full on Sunday, June 13 for the roughly 90-minute film which was followed by a discussion with producer and cinematographer Carol Dysinger and members of the New Jersey and Vermont National Guard who appear in the production.

"Camp Victory" drew upon nearly 300 hours of video shot by Dysinger over a 5-year period beginning in 2005. During this period she traveled by herself for months at a time and embedded with U.S. Forces serving as trainers and mentors with the Afghan National Army's 207th Corps based in Herat in Western Afghanistan. Her film is a testament to her determination to endure difficult and austere conditions and the access she gained from both the U.S. and Afghans she encountered.

The New York National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 as Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII to lead the training and mentoring mission. Dysinger came to Fort Drum while the unit was training in October 2007 where she met Maj. Vincent Heintz from New York City destined to lead a mentoring team to the Afghan National Police. She invited Heintz to her studio at his request to view some of her raw footage and discuss in greater detail the potential difficulties his New Yorkers could face and possible training approaches. In addition to producing films, Dysinger is a professor at the New York University film school.



A Soldier from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Embedded Training Team with Afghan Army Soldiers. Guard Times Archive Photo.



Carol Dysinger courtesy photo

"I think the film is terrific," said Heintz, who saw it in April during a screening at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan. "This is a great film and she really helped us as we prepared to go."

Heintz led a police mentoring team in Northern Afghanistan that was mostly comprised of National Guard Soldiers who served with him at the World Trade Center following the 2001 terrorist attacks. Most of these Soldiers later served with him in Iraq in 2004. His team included New York Police and a firefighter and other experienced profession-

als with both military and civilian skills.

"The film depicts the Afghans and the situation accurately," said Heintz. "Thanks to her I think my team was better prepared for what we faced in 2008," he said, adding that there were plenty of surprises still waiting for them in Konduz and the other locations they operated from. "I think all Guard members should see this film, especially if Afghanistan is in their future, and we know it is. It's just a matter of time," he added.

Advance orders for the feature length film are being taken at [www.CampVictoryDVD.com](http://www.CampVictoryDVD.com). A one-hour version is being set for broadcast at many local PBS affiliates in the August and September time frames. Local listings can be checked at [www.itvs.org/films/camp-victory-afghanistan](http://www.itvs.org/films/camp-victory-afghanistan). For more information go to [www.facebook.com/CampVictoryAfghanistan](http://www.facebook.com/CampVictoryAfghanistan). **gt**

## 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue On Hand for Shuttle Launch

*By Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing*



Senior Master Sgt. Paul Prebish communicates with the cockpit of an HC-130 while Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing on May 12, including Guardian Angels and Combat Rescue Officers from the 103rd Rescue Squadron, prepare for their upcoming mission to Patrick Airforce Base. At top, the pararescue team supported the final launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis, STS-132 on May 14. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

# After 25 Years, Air Guard Supports Final Flight of Atlantis

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. --Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing traveled from F.S. Gabreski, West Hampton to Patrick Air Force Base to support the final launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis during the launch Mission STS-132 on May 14.

The mission was the 104th time the 106th Rescue Wing has deployed Airmen and aircraft in supporting a shuttle launch.

Guardian Angels and Combat Rescue Officers from the 103rd Rescue Squadron, working in conjunction with the 101st and 102nd Rescue Squadron, along with ground personnel from NASA, were on standby when the space shuttle Atlantis launched, providing rescue services should an in-flight emergency arise.

The Atlantis launch ferried the Russian Rassvet Mini-Research Module and the Integrated Cargo Carrier-Vertical Light Deployable to the International Space Station, and was the first space flight in nearly ten years to

be crewed solely by veteran astronauts.

In addition to the Rassvet Module and the cargo carrier, the Atlantis carried a four inch long wooden sample taken from Sir Isaac Newton's apple tree.

This mission marked the 163rd manned American space flight, of which the Atlantis has flown 32 times.

STS-132 was the final flight of the shuttle Atlantis, which had been in service with NASA since April, 1985. Following the launch, Atlantis will remain available as a rescue vehicle should one of the two remaining shuttle launches require it as part of the "Launch on Need" mission. **gt**



Pilots from the 102nd Rescue Squadron guide an HC-130 from F.S. Gabreski, West Hampton to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. in support of the final launch of the space shuttle Atlantis, STS-132 on May 14. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.



Astronauts from Space Shuttle Mission STS-132 enter their transport vehicle taking them to the launch site. The 106th Rescue Wing supported the mission on May 14. The 101st, 102nd and 103rd Rescue Squadrons each provided a different asset of support for the Space Shuttle Recovery Program. Photo by Staff Sgt. David J. Murphy, 106th Rescue Wing.



Members of the 106th Rescue Wing take part in the Jones Beach Air Show on May 29 at Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh. Activities included a flyover by an HC-130, a rescue demonstration by Pararescue Jumpers and Combat Rescue Officers, and a flight simulator set up by Air National Guard recruiters.

## 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Participates in 2010 Jones Beach Air Show

*Story and photos by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing*

JONES BEACH -- The Jones Beach Air Show took summer off to a jump start this year as members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing entertained the crowd with aerobatic performances, parachute jumps, and static displays on Memorial Day Weekend.

During the show, aircraft from the 106th Rescue Wing, including the HC-130 and HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter made several low-level passes, simulated aerial refueling, dropped a Guardian Angel parachute rescue team, and made a practice water rescue. The pararescue team, which included both Guardian Angels and Combat Rescue Officers, made a high-

altitude parachute jump from the back of the HC-130, landed in the water and swam to shore, where they posed for pictures, signed autographs, and talked with members of the crowd. Also in attendance were jumpers from the Red Bull parachute team, a Canadian CF-18 Hornet Demonstration Team, the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

In addition, several WW II-era fully restored aircraft made low level passes over the crowd, including a B-17G, a P-40 Warhawk, a P-51D Mustang, a C-47, and a team of T-6 Texans. The annual air show gathered a crowd of thousands, selling out in record time. **gt**



Guardian Angels from the 103rd Rescue Squadron after performing a demonstration of their skills for the crowd at Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh, on May 29.

## Crew Finishes First Flight in Remodeled C-5A



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh --The crew of "the Hudson Valley Hauler" after completing their initial home station flight of the 105th Airlift Wing's first Avionics Modernized C-5A. The Avionics Modernization Program or AMP replaces existing avionics

with a modern, digital flight deck. From left to right: Capt. Ryan Dannemann, Master Sgt. Joseph Cincotta, Lt. Col. Steven Branche, Chief Master Sgt. Peter McDermott, Maj. Philip Leone, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Rosa. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. John Brocklehurst.

## Medical Evacuation Training Tests Aerial Patient Transport

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE Staff Sgt's Erin Spaulding and Zachary Mckinnon, 105th Airlift Wing Medical Group Aerospace medical technicians transport a simulated casualty here May 1 during Exercise Golden Eagle II, a training exercise designed to test the ability of local medical providers to participate in the National Disaster Medical System in which patients are moved from areas affected by a disaster to other locations. The exercise tests casualty reporting mechanisms, communications between state, local, and federal participants and exercised the Federal Coordinating Centers. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee C. Guagenti.



# Iron Chefs in the 107<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Dining Facility?

By Capt. Elaine Nowak, 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION - The Food Network's show "Iron Chef America," inspired Tech. Sgt. Stephen Pease, dining hall supervisor for the 107th Airlift Wing, to devise a plan to bring a similar competition during the April drill weekend here.

Just like in the television show, competitors were surprised just before cooking began with the secret ingredients. Each team was given three hours to prepare a meal. Two teams each consisted of one trainer and four chefs. Trainers gave advice, but were not allowed to touch the food. The chefs were junior enlisted Airmen. This challenge provided them with an opportunity for learning and fun.

"We have done really well in our inspections," Pease said. "These guys have worked cohesively as a team and it is almost a family atmosphere. We wanted to challenge them. This was a chance to get them to step it up."

One difficulty of this project was not only to have the competition, but to also conduct normal business, feeding over 300 Airmen for lunch both Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday Team A prepared their meal. Team A's trainer was Tech. Sgt. John Eagan with food service specialists Airman 1st Class Heather Grimm, Senior Airmen Evelyn Orlowski, Joshua Asamoah, and Raymond Koehne. Their menu: Caramelized apple stuffed chicken breast with fontina and bing cherries served with glazed carrots.

The panel of judges included Col. Timothy Vaughan, Lt. Colonels Linda Blaszk, Barry Griffith, and Patrick Roemer, and Master Sgt. Randall Shenefiel. The judges thoroughly enjoyed their meal. Overheard from the judges' table were highly technical remarks such as "It's yummy" and "Wow."

On Sunday it was Team B's turn. Trainer Tech. Sgt. Deonza Eady led food service specialists Staff Sgt. Patricia Fountaine, Senior Airmen David Siegel, Sarah Kowalczyk, and Emily Roy. Their menu: pork tenderloin with rum-molasses glaze and grilled pineapple-jalapeño sauce served with fried green beans.

"It's not just your regular chicken fingers," Shenefiel said of the out of the ordinary meal.

The dishes were judged by four categories; eatability, temperature, plating (presentation),



Senior Airmen Evelyn Orlowski from Team A prepares the plates for the judges during the 107th Airlift Wing's Iron Chef competition in the wing dining facility April 17. Team A's meal was Caramelized apple stuffed chicken breast with fontina and bing cherries served with glazed carrots. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean.

and taste. The prize for winning this food challenge was a plaque but, more importantly, bragging rights for the winning team.

Team B emerged victorious, although reportedly, it was a very close match. The plating of the food seemed to be the differentiating factor. After all, sometimes it's all about presentation.

"As the challenge went on, I got more excited," Kowalczyk said. "At the end, it was really neat to serve the judges and see that the team was behind you. It was really exciting."

"Overall, we all pulled together as a team, we usually work as a team, but I feel like we were even stronger in this competition," Koehne said.

"We'd absolutely love to do this competition again," Sgt. Pease said. Force support squadron hopes to make this an annual event. **gt**



Iron Chefs of the 107th Airlift Wing. From left to right: Team B food service specialists Senior Airman Sarah Kowalczyk, Staff Sgt. Patricia Fountaine, Tech. Sgt. Deonza Eady (Team B's trainer), Senior Airmen David Siegel, and Emily Roy. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean.



## This is Only a Test

*STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Newburgh -- Airmen from the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing and members of the United States Marine Corps Reserve's Air Refueler and Transport Squadron 452 deploy two containment booms across Recreation Pond while an inspector with the Environmental Protection Agency monitors the process May 26.*

*The boom contains environmental spills, similar to those used on a much larger scale in the Gulf of Mexico to contain the deep water oil spill.*

*The spill containment exercise is a requirement set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.*

*Photo by Tech Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing.*

# Air Guard Nurse is Afghan Mobile Medic

By Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group



BAGRAM, Afghanistan - Captain Cassie Ayott, a member of the New York Air National Guard's 139th Aeromedical Squadron, an element of the 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base, has been assisting the Afghan National Army Air Corps in moving medically treated Afghan Soldiers back to their units.

Ayott, a Townsend, Mass. resident is one of several Air Force personnel assisting the Afghans in conducting "reverse" medical evacuation missions on Afghan-crewed Russian made, Mi-17 helicopters. She is currently serving as a flight nurse with the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group in Bagram, Afghanistan.

"Since our first mission in February, our Afghan medics have made significant strides," Ayott told Jefferson. "The Afghans are moving to the forefront of this mission and are on target toward our goal of them conducting this mission without our help."

Members of the Afghan National Army Air Corps and the Combined Air Power Task Force's 438th AEAG advisor completed a historic mission when they flew the first, joint, rotary-wing medical evacuation from Bagram Airfield to FOB Lightning in Gardez, Afghanistan, Feb. 3.

"Now our team has transported more than 30 Afghanistan National Army and ANAAC Soldiers, and local nationals to medical facilities and FOBs across Afghanistan," said Ayott. "Each time we do it the ANAAC medics get better and better."

The goal of the medical evacuations is to allow Afghan medical personnel to access remote towns and villages where medical care is not adequate or transportation is not available. Also, it frees up space in coalition medical facilities, and allows Afghans to provide medical care for their countrymen in Afghan hospitals with Afghan medical staffs.

"This mission really makes me proud," said Sgt. Malik Hamet, an Afghan flight medic and one of six Afghans working with the 438th AEAG. "I have learned so much about this mission and I get to help my people every day. It is nice to put a smile on someone's face and contribute to the security of Afghanistan."

During the reverse medical evacuations, Afghan medics are trained on patient care, patient movement, safety, sanitization and movement coordination. Their Airmen advisors not only see improvements in the way the Afghans are learning their duties, but also the way they are taking a role in the process.

"The most important benefit of this mission is the ability to move patients with less debilitating conditions," said Maj. John Modra, 455th Expeditionary Medical Group Intensive Care Ward flight commander for the Craig Joint Theater Hospital in Bagram. "This allows the medical facility to receive more patients requiring critical care. Another benefit is the way the Afghans are taking a more active role in coordinating this mission."

As the U.S. Air Force and Afghan-led medical evacuations continue, advisors here see a bright future for this mission-critical operation.

"It's awesome to be a part of a process that you see continued growth in," Ayott said "I can see a future where the Afghans can conduct this mission with very little or no U.S. assistance at all; and that makes me feel good. I feel like we're making a difference and Afghanistan and its people will reap the benefits." **gt**

New York Air National Guard Capt. Cassie Ayott, a flight-nurse advisor assigned to the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron, takes a moment from patient care during a flight on an Mi-17, May 12, over Afghanistan. "Since our first mission in February, our Afghan medics have made significant strides," Ayott, said. She is from the 139th Aeromedical Squadron at Stratton Air National Guard Base, N.Y. "The Afghans are moving to the forefront of this mission and are on target toward our goal of them conducting this mission without our help." At right, Ayott, gives an Afghan father a cookie for his son, during a flight. Photos by Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez.







## Presidential Stop Off at Stewart Air Base

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - President Barack Obama meets military personnel, family members and guests May 22 before taking a short flight aboard Marine One to attend a West Point Graduation. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

## 109<sup>th</sup> Change of Command



STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE -- Colonel Timothy LaBarge accepts the colors of the 109th Airlift Wing from Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the New York State Adjutant General, during a change of command ceremony here June 12.

LaBarge took over for Brig. Gen. Anthony German who is now the Assistant Adjutant General for Air.

LaBarge has served as 109th Vice Commander since 2008. Prior to that he was Director of Staff and Deputy Director of Operations for Headquarters, New York Air National Guard in Latham.

The 109th Airlift Wing is one of five flying units of the New York Air National Guard that provides worldwide airlift support for operations as directed by the Air Mobility Command and the Air National Guard. It has the only ski-equipped C-130 aircraft in the Air Force and is the sole provider of heavy airlift in support of military and National Science Foundation directed operations in the Arctic and Antarctica Polar Regions.

The wing regularly supplies the science station at the South Pole and has flown airlift missions into and out of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Master Sgt. Willy Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.



## What a Field to be In

NEW WINDSOR - Staff Sgt. Kenneth Tauber, an avionics journeyman with the 105th Maintenance Squadron, introduces students from Washingtonville Middle School to the avionics and communications career field during a Y2Kids event held at Stewart International Airport May 12. Y2Kids is an annual hands-on, interactive career exploration activity for middle school children. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

## NYG Soldiers Train for Domestic Response

Story and photo by Sgt. Christopher Ferraro, 56th Brigade



Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standards training is designed to support decontamination operations such as those carried out by the New York Guard's Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team.

**GOSHEN - New York Guard members of the 56th Brigade spent part of their annual training honing their knowledge of Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standards (HAZWOPERS), at the Orange County Office of Emergency Management here June 3-6.**

The New York Guard volunteers were trained in the identification of hazardous material emergencies and various methods of precautions and response according to federal regulations and standards, earning the participants certification by the Department of Defense to respond to hazardous materials emergencies.

Training also included use of national resources and databases to manage such emergencies.

The training further enhances the abilities of the 56th Brigade to augment the New York Army National Guard in their mission to aid civil authorities in times of crisis, responding to domestic incidents as part of Joint Task Force 3 (JTF 3) in the Hudson Valley.

The HAZWOPERS class was given by Orange County Emergency Programs Coordinator Shannon Egan-Fisher. Egan-Fisher also serves in the New York Air National Guard's Emergency Management Flight, 105th Airlift Wing, based in Newburgh.

As a trained Nuclear, Biological and Chemical response specialist and certified Emergency Manager in both her civilian and military life, Egan-Fisher believes this training is crucial to the success of the New York Guard.

"HAZWOPER training prepares [Soldiers] that enter potentially hazardous environments when responding to emergency situations to recognize and assess hazardous situations when they arise," Egan-Fisher said.

Such training enhances the capabilities of the brigade's Community Emergency Response Teams and Search and Rescue teams in performing their missions.

Fisher-Egan also instructed the 56th in the use of Disaster Local Area Network (DLAN) incident management software. A universally used incident management software used by all state and Federal agencies.

"DLAN training will allow... personnel to provide assistance to Orange County," or other state/local agencies. "...allowing them

to not only perform their [Emergency Support] functional tasks or back-fill capability but additionally allowed them to integrate into already existing programs for ensuring multi-agency coordination during disaster response operations," she added.

The 56th has been similarly focused on supporting JTF 3 in its domestic response mission over the past year. For this purpose, members have been certified in running Emergency Operations Centers and Joint Operations Centers databases and software. The training also included more advanced Federal Emergency Management Agency courses. During the past year, eight members of the 56th earned the Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) certification. **gt**

## CERFP Guard Members Trained to be Airmobile



*RONKONKOMA -- The New York Guard Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological, & High Yield Explosive Enhanced Responsive Force (NYG CERFP) pose for a group photo during a field training exercise at Army*

*Aviation Support Facility 1, March 15. The NYG CERFP trained to enter and exit the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in the event that they would have to use air transport in an emergency.*

*The team is a part of the first state militia emergency response team, which is certified to respond to actual emergencies. Photo by Spc. Jean Marciniak, New York Guard.*

## A NY Guard Augmentation Force Surges in the Big Apple



*QUEENS - New York Guard Capt. John Passarotti, at right, and Capt. Robert Patterson are briefed at John F. Kennedy International Airport by Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTFES) Staff Sgt. Ronnie Redfern, June 29.*

*The two officers toured various terminals where the Joint Task Force Empire Shield performed a surge drill alongside the New York and New Jersey Port Authority Police Department.*

*Currently, members of the New York Guard serve on State Active Duty, attached to JTFES to assist in daily security efforts.*

*Photo by Pfc. Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.*

## Naval Militia Welcomes Fleet Week In New York

Guard Times Staff

Navy and Coast Guard ships arrive in New York marking the beginning of Fleet Week New York 2010, May 26. The New York Naval Militia assisted the welcoming ceremonies with security missions throughout NYC waterways. More than 3,000 Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen participated in community outreach events and equipment demonstrations May 26 - June 2. This is the 26th year New York City has hosted the sea services for Fleet Week. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jad Sleiman, U.S. Marine Corps.

**NEW YORK - Fleet Week is a United States Navy, United States Marine Corps and United States Coast Guard (USCG) tradition in which active military ships recently deployed in overseas operations dock in a variety of major cities for one week.**

Once the ships dock, the crews can enter the city and visit its tourist attractions. At certain hours, the public can take guided tours of the ships.

During the 2010 Fleet Week, the New York Naval Militia was tasked by the USCG to provide additional maritime security. The mission, vetted through the Memorandum Of Agreement that exists between the USCG and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, tasked two patrol boats from the Military Emergency Boat Service with specified security zones around New York Harbor after the U.S. Navy ships arrived in harbor.

The 23rd Annual Fleet Week in New York harbor ran May 26 - June 2. During what's referred to as the Parade of Ships up the Hudson River, Fort Hamilton fired a traditional 11-

gun salute from its four-gun battery to honor the USS Iwo Jima, USS De Wert (FFG 45), USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) and USCG Katherine Walker (WLM 552).

After the ships anchored in the harbor, two of the Naval Militia's patrol boats assisted the Coast Guard in the massive 12-hour security patrols near the shore line to provide over-watch security to detect and deter any form of criminal activity or deliberate terrorism such as a floating mine. The Naval Militia crews also watched over on-lookers and other unwanted vessels to keep them clear of the large naval vessels' security zones.

At the conclusion of Fleet Week, the two patrol boats were assigned to escort duty for the USS De Wert, one of the Oliver Hazard Perry - class guided missile frigates and the first ship in the Navy to bear the name. The escort was approximately 20 miles from New York harbor to a point at sea known as the Ambrose Channel. **gt**



The Fort Hamilton Artillery Battery fires a traditional 11-gun salute May 26 as ships make their way up the Hudson River for Fleet Week 2010. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 1-258th Field Artillery.

Photo backdrop: A New York Naval Militia patrol boat approaches a U.S. Naval warship during the 2010 Fleet Week activities in NYC. Courtesy photo.

## Naval Militia Keeps Waterways Clear

NEAR PEEKSKILL -- A Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES) Naval Militia crew conducts random maritime patrol missions near the Indian Point Energy Center along the Hudson River on April 19. At the helm of Patrol Boat 301, with the radio microphone is Boatsman Mate 2 James Belfiore. Entering information into the deck log is Boatsman Mate 1 Robert Quinones. The Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service is a regular part of the state's Joint Task Force Empire Shield maritime security missions in New York State critical waterways. Courtesy photo.



## NYS Recognizes 45 Years of Service

JOINTFORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham -- Major General Robert Wolf, commander, New York Naval Militia (NYNM) presents the New York State Long and Faithful Award to Capt. Robert Pouch, Deputy Commander for Operations, NYNM on June 18 for 45 years of service. Pouch joined the New York Naval Militia in



1965. He currently oversees all Regional and Operational Commanders in the Naval Militia. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.



## Coast Guard Partners for Rescue Training

NEW YORK -- Petty Officer Ken Stefandel (MK3) stands aboard the New York State's Military Emergency Boat Service's Boat PB440, as they assist the U.S. Coast Guards (USCG) Air Operations April 9. The USCG placed a rescue swimmer in the water and then dropped in another swimmer to simulate a person in distress in the water. The Naval Militia was there as a safety net in the event something went wrong. Photo by Boatsman Mate 1 Kurt Schneider

# GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS



## State Tour Annual Training

*Photo by Lt. Col Paul Fanning, Joint Forces Headquarters*

ALBANY--Chief Warrant Officer Mark Klimes leads the 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow) Band in the service medley during a performance on the Concourse of the Empire State Plaza on Monday July 19. The Rainbow Division Band is on a tour across the state as part of its Annual Training program.

## Guardsmen and State Trooper Receives TAG's Top Award

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, Joint Force Headquarters*



LATHAM-- New York State Trooper Edward Stefik, who is also Master Sgt. Stefik of the 107th Security Forces Squadron of the New York Air National Guard, receives the Master Sgt. Joseph Longobardo Trophy for best novice marksman at the annual Adjutant General's Match from Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General, during a short ceremony at State Headquarters on Wednesday, June 30.

Stefik, a 13-year member of the New York State Police and a rifleman on the State Police Special Operations Response Team, has been a member of the 107th Airlift Wing, based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, for the past two years. Prior to that he served with the 98th Division of the United States Army Reserve and spent a year in Iraq, where he was awarded the Combat Action Badge.

The Longobardo Trophy, the New York National Guard's top award for shooters participating in the annual competition for the first time, is named after New York State Trooper Joseph Longobardo, who was also a member of the New York Air National Guard and who was killed in the line of duty on August 31, 2006.

## Running in the Rain for Readiness

*By Spc. Melissa Anderson, 42nd Infantry Division*

COLONIE – A rainy day did little to dampen the spirits of the more than 200 National Guard and community runners who participated in the 3rd 'Hometown Heroes Run,' an annual fund raiser sponsored by the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council Saturday, June 12 at Colonie Crossings Park.

This year's race was won by David Marthy, a 17-year-old Shaker High School junior who recently enlisted in the Army National Guard. He finished with a time of 17 minutes and 6 seconds.

"This run was a good way to get my feet back on the ground and get in shape as I prepare to go to basic training in a couple weeks," said Marthy.

The first female to finish the race was Air National Guard Master Sgt. Shannon Pingitore of Joint Force Headquarters. Her time was 20 minutes and 25 seconds.

"As I ran I was thinking about our service members overseas," said Pingitore. "After all they do for us back home, I can spend 20 minutes of my time doing this for them."

The FRC held the race to raise money to assist service members and families in need through a grant program.

"If a Soldier can't find a job after deployment, the FRC can step in to help with rent, groceries, or anything else that may be needed," said Cherie Murphy, the president of the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council.

Ann Swezey, chairperson for the Hometown Heroes Run, said the purpose of the run was to raise money for the families and bring the family members together to promote health and wellness.

"We are looking to support the family members who support the Guard so they can do their job," said Swezey.

To learn more about the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council, please visit their website at <http://www.nyfrc-inc.org/> **gt**



### New State EO Officer

*Captain Michelle Buonome, the New York National Guard Equal Employment Manager is a new face at Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters but she's got lots of experience in the field of equal opportunity.*

*She served as a traditional Guard member in the 109th Airlift Wing as the equal opportunity officer after being commissioned in 2002. Prior to that she was an enlisted Airman, joining the Guard in 1997 and working in the maintenance section for the 109th.*

*"People have rights and we are the overseer and manager of this particular process to guarantee those rights," Buonome said. "Our goal is to promote mission readiness in the New York National Guard by promoting an environment free from social, personal and institutional barriers."*

*Her phone is 518-786-4735 and the e-mail for those with questions or concerns is [seem@ny.ngb.army.mil](mailto:seem@ny.ngb.army.mil). The EO website, were many questions can be answered is <http://dmna.state.ny.us/eo/eo.php>.*



Runners push through the rain on Saturday, June 12, as they cross the finish line during the New York Family Readiness Council's annual Hometown Heroes Race held at Colonie Crossings Park here.

More than 200 runners, including both civilians and New York National Guard members, participated in the fund-raising event.

The money raised by the Family Readiness Council is used to assist Guard families in need during deployments. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Bratt, Joint Forces Headquarters.



## Guard Soldier Volunteers for Her Own Haiti Mission

*By Guard Times Staff*

**HAITI** - New York Army National Guard Soldier Pfc. Callie Haynes, a member of the 42nd Special Troops Battalion conducted her own Haiti relief mission from February 12 to March 2 as part of a mission trip conducted by SCORE International, a Chattanooga, Tenn.-based Christian relief group in the aftermath of the massive earthquake that shook the island nation on January 12.

At left, Haynes holds one of the Haitian children the team treated.

At right, Haynes treats the injuries of a Haitian woman.

Haynes traveled with her mother Gabrielle, a registered cardiac

care and emergency room nurse. She put her Army Combat Life Saver training to work by assisting doctors with wound care. She also managed the medical team's pharmacy.

The SCORE International medical team worked in Port au Prince and the city of Jacmel providing primary and emergency care and dispensing drugs when possible. The team set up clinics anywhere possible, including the country's only school of nursing which had been totally destroyed in the January 12 earthquake. The team treated over 1,500 people for a number of injuries as well as post-traumatic stress trauma.



## Guardsmen Reunites With Producer

*By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division*

**ALBANY**--Producer/director Matthew O'Neill talks about his film "Baghdad ER" at the New York State Museum with Staff Sergeant Craig Macy, a wounded New York Army National Guard Soldier who appears in the film.

Macy joined O'Neill for a special showing of his film at the Museum on Thursday, July 1 in conjunction with the on-going Citizen Soldier exhibit the state museum is currently maintaining.



# Rainbow Division Veterans Land in the Big Easy

## Annual reunion brings together many generations of veterans of the historic 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

By Maj. Ben Tupper, HQ, 42nd Infantry Division

NEW ORLEANS, La. -- The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation (RDVMF) held its annual national reunion in New Orleans from July 13 to 17. Over 150 Rainbow veterans, spouses, and family members were in attendance, representing Rainbow Division combat experiences from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan.

All in attendance enjoyed four days of celebration, site seeing, and ceremonies of remembrance in honor of the contributions the 42nd Infantry Division has made since its organization in 1917.

Reunion participants enjoyed a tour of New Orleans, and a visit to the World War II museum. Evenings were spent by many in the hospitality suite, where current and past Rainbow veterans shared war stories over drinks and snacks.

The RDVMF is working hard to bridge the gap between past and present Rainbow veterans. Most of the World War II veterans, who form the core of the RDVMF, are nearing their middle to late 80's, and they know that they will soon be passing on the guidon to the younger generations of 42nd Infantry Division veterans from the Cold War, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

"My vision is to incorporate more and more of the post World War II Soldiers into the foundation," said Ernie Owen, current Chairman of the RDVMF. "It should be a very short time before current 42nd Division personnel begin to move into the offices of direct leadership in the Foundation," Owen said.

While the veterans who wore the Rainbow shoulder patch are the focus of the RDVMF organization, they were only one part of the group of attendees in New Orleans for the reunion. Spouses of these veterans also participate in these events through the Auxiliary RDVMF, a separate organization within the foundation. According to current Auxiliary President Linda Owen, "spouses involved in the Auxiliary RDVMF makes for the whole package."



Newly elected foundation chairman Ernie Owen displays a reproduction of the original 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division colors created for the unit's overseas service in France during WWI. Photo by Spc. John Smith, 42nd Infantry Division.

"The spouses have common experiences unique to veteran spouses that allow them to share their experiences and develop wonderful, lasting friendships," she said.

One important step that has been taken to recruit new members and spouses into the RDVMF and Auxiliary is the creation of the Millennium Chapter. For only \$15, any Rainbow Soldier or family member, past or present, regardless of overseas combat service or lack thereof, can join and be involved in all the events and benefits associated with the RDVMF. The membership form can be found online at <http://www.rainbowvets.org/millenniumform.htm>.

One of the current Rainbow Division Soldiers who knows the benefits of RDVMF membership is Command Sgt. Maj. John J. Willsey.

"I joined the RDVMF to learn more about my comrades who came before me," Willsey

said. "You can't feel what they felt until you sit across from them and watch and listen as they explain how they came upon Dachau, how they dug foxholes in the forests near Haguenau, and kept warm during Operation Nordwind, the Southern Battle of the Bulge," said Willsey.

It is this face to face interaction with World War II Rainbow veterans that draws many of today's younger Rainbow Soldiers into the RDVMF.

World War II veterans like Sgt. Dee Eberhart, who served as a scout with the 242nd Infantry in France and Germany, make it clear the younger Soldiers are wanted and welcome. "We hope that you, your comrades, and our Millennium Chapter will be successful in amalgamating a multi-generational assembly of those from throughout the U.S. who have an affiliation with the 42nd Division and wish the Rainbow well," said Eberhart. **gt**

# Aerial Fire Control Training in the Hudson River



SCHUYLERVILLE - A New York Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter operating out of Army Aviation Support Facility 3 at the Albany International Airport fills a "Bambi Bucket" in the Hudson River during fire fighting training conducted on Wednesday, July 28. New York Army National Guard helicopters stand ready to support state and local fire services in fighting forest and grass fires during the summer months. Helicopter crews train regularly during the summer on the right way to fill one of the 660 gallon buckets and then practice maneuvering to drop the water on a simulated fire. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters.

## NY's Long Distance Runners Named to All Guard Marathon Team



LINCOLN, Neb. - Five of six of New York's top Army and Air National Guard distance runners were named to the 2010-11 "All Guard Marathon Team" after completing the arduous National Guard Marathon, May 2.

The All Guard Team consists of the top 40 males and top 15 females who will participate in races all over the United States to support recruiting for the Guard.

From left to right are Staff Sgt. Matthew Starr, Master Sgt. Walter Bird, Chief Warrant Officer Heather Langley, Master Sgt. Shannon Pingitore, Sgt. 1st Class Barry Brill and Chief Warrant Officer Russell Hoyer.

The All Guard Marathon Team is expected to compete in five to eight marathons across the United States during the upcoming running season. The selectees will alternate events that they attend.

The "All Guard" athlete's elite talent level serves as a platform to promote the National Guard in a positive and professional manner, and to enhance both Recruiting and Retention for the National Guard.

# Corporate Give Back Benefits Troops

## Texas Roadhouse Makes Impact in Manhattan for USO

By Capt. Alvin Phillips, Joint Task Force Empire Shield



Colonel Stephanie Dawson, commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, delivers opening comments at the Texas Roadhouse USO event.

NEW YORK – Troops from the New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield and Family Readiness Groups from city armories were treated to a day-long celebration of the military, April 14. Entertainment included the West Point Glee Club, the United Service Organizations (USO) of Metropolitan New York "Liberty Bells" performers, the Charlie Daniels Band and a fireworks show during the Salute to America Concert at Ellis Island.

The events were sponsored by the Texas



The Charlie Daniels Band performing "live" for Guardsmen at Ellis Island.

Roadhouse Restaurant chain, which operates nearly 360 restaurants across 46 states. Texas Roadhouse selected the USO as their 2010 National Humanitarian partner as part of the corporate culture to give back to the community. Company employees of the restaurant chain

raised funds and provided hands-on assistance for a number of programs to benefit U.S. service members and their families throughout the week of April 11-15.

The company held a Managing Partners Conference in New York which included a volunteer event, Helping Hands Humanitarian Day, on April 13, where company attendees chose to join in five service-oriented activities: building and delivering new bicycles to kids of deployed troops in the NYC area; painting murals to be sent to various hospitals; serving meals at a Manhattan soup kitchen; stuffing gift bags on the USS Intrepid for troops stationed around the world; and renovating the USO facilities in Penn Station, Grand Central Station, and Port Authority.

"The USO is pleased to support the National Guard and thought that by providing more comfortable break rooms at Grand Central and Penn Stations, we could extend our mission of providing a home away from home to those who secure our welfare on a daily basis," said Nathalie de Berry, Director of Programs & Services for the USO of Metropolitan New York.

Volunteers from Texas Roadhouse and their vendors renovated the MacArthur Center at the Port Authority Bus Terminal for Joint Task Force Empire Shield Soldiers and Airmen and other military service members. The group painted walls, designed a colorful children's mural and installed new computers.

"It's a great thing to do for our folks who serve our country," Kent Taylor, the company founder, said.

At the Waldorf Astoria hotel, a private donor funded a project for volunteers to build almost 200 bicycles. A portion of the bicycles were donated to the children of the New York Army National Guard's 442nd Military Police, who deployed last Spring. Others were distributed to children of active duty service members across the New York City area.

"We are so thrilled to hear that the National Guard is happy with the project that we did at Grand Central and at Penn Station," de Berry said. "We really enjoyed the project and appreciated all the support (from Joint Task Force Empire Shield)." **gt**



## 235th Birthday

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone  
Joint Forces Headquarters

ALBANY - Private First Class Corey Hines, 7th Finance Detachment, New York Army National Guard, the youngest Soldier in attendance, assists Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command in cutting the Army Birthday cake at the New York State Museum on June 14, the 235th Birthday of the U.S. Army.

## Honoring Our Fallen



New York Military Forces Honor Guard posted the colors in a Purple Heart memorial ceremony, May 25 in Albany to remember the 23 members of the N.Y. Army National Guard and one member of the N.Y. Naval Militia lost in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Bratt, Joint Forces Headquarters.



U.S. AIR FORCE